

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—Humboldt's Cosmos.

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Review of the Week.

FOR one week, at least, speculations in regard to the Congress at Paris may be suspended. Before our next publication, probably, the plenipotentiaries will have assembled, and by that time we may have some foretaste of the instructions that they have received, and of the tone that the deliberations are likely to take. If there is any reality in the submission of Russia, if the whole proceedings are not to be a drama for the amusement of the world—a gigantic joke that would recoil upon its author—the deliberations of the Conference will form a great public act above all precedent. The subjects to be debated are not less important than those discussed at the Vienna Conference; they have assumed a much more urgent form, the consequences involved are much vaster and more imminent, and the conduct of the Plenipotentiaries will be at least as much under the surveillance and control of the press in this country. There may be some attempt at keeping doors closed, especially if there should be any tendency to dispute amongst the members of the conclave; but there are too many persons that have some kind of access, too many interested in obtaining intelligence, for us to be shut off from a fair knowledge of what is passing; and therefore, by the end of next week or the commencement of the following, we shall be acquiring some insight into the destinies of the ensuing summer—into the solution of the question whether it is to be war. If war, whether it is to be a conflict in which we are to go with France or without her. If it is to be peace, whether it is to be an honest peace or a war disguised.

One important result seems likely to get the start of the Conference.

The Turkish Rayahs are to be emancipated—so will the Powers of Austria, France, England through their representatives at Constantinople, and the Sultan accords, the Grand Vizier assisting in the work. As the fruit of Conferences to develop the fourth point, a scheme has been agreed upon and presented for the approval of the Grand Council, comprising equality

before the law, with the right to hold property, to fill offices, and to serve in the army, for all the subjects of the Porte. Measures for an efficient police, and for developing the resources of Turkey are to follow. If these measures be fairly carried out they will be the finest fruits of the war, and will clinch the material guarantees for external safety, by internal improvement.

The Parliament has not recovered from the paramount influence of the great international question. Ministers still have it in their power to set aside political subjects, and to keep party in abeyance. Faction feels that any interruption to the official course would now be regarded as something like treachery, and it remains silent. Ministers seize the opportunity to fill up the time with unpolitical questions and measures, the merit of which cannot be denied.

The police reform is a real and serious improvement, yet it should be jealously watched. Although there are two bills, the legislation of Sir GEORGE GREY refers to the whole of the country; and if divided at all, it might be divided into three or four classes of measures. The fourth class, indeed, is quite unimportant. When the County Constabulary Act was passed, it was received with great jealousy; it was then, as it has been since, resisted by several parts of the country. It was, nevertheless, necessary to provide police for those parts; and the Watching and Lighting Act, in some degree continued from previous enactments, authorised a certain class of towns unincorporated, many of them small in size, to provide for their own lighting and watching. These towns have scarcely a distinctive boundary on the municipal map, and, under the new legislation, they will be lost in the counties by which they are surrounded. These, therefore, we may dismiss. The three branches of the legislation relate to the police of the metropolis, of the boroughs, and of the counties. The whole metropolis, the City excepted, will form one district under a single commissioner, with two assistant commissioners. This will concentrate the authority, and, without an addition to the expense, it will enable Government to give higher pay and station to the chief commissioner. He may be regarded

henceforward as a general of division commanding an army in blue uniform for the whole of the metropolis. The next branch refers to the boroughs: they are included in the general bill for the provinces. Sir GEORGE does not take the jurisdiction from the watch committees who now appoint the chief constable, and exercise a right of approval on his appointment of the constables; but Sir GEORGE extends to boroughs the right of the Secretary of State to prescribe rules for the government, pay, and clothing of the constables. Of course this involves a very considerable amount of authority exercised by the Secretary of State. Like their brethren of the counties, the borough constables are henceforward to be prohibited from voting at elections.

The provisions with respect to the county police differ both in motive and scope, though there is one motive over-riding all. The County Constabulary Act has been carried out by several counties—twenty-four—and by parts of seven other counties. The remaining portion of England and Wales has refused to accept the act, mainly on account of the expense. The consequence is a great want of uniformity in the watch and ward of the whole kingdom. Sir GEORGE now substitutes for the permissive effect of the County Constabulary Act a compulsory act—counties must adopt the constabulary. This compulsion is accompanied by a permissive aid. The Secretary of State will have the discretion of contributing towards the fund for payment of the police not more than one-fourth. He will, according to Sir GEORGE's explanation, be guided in the amount by his approval of the system which the county adopts, and he will withhold it altogether if he is not satisfied with the number and efficiency of the constabulary. The bills also authorise him to remove the constables, on emergency, from one part of the country to another.

The whole effect of these measures, therefore, is to make the different forces, the metropolitan, borough, and county, much more resemble each other, and to carry an uniformity of intervention on the part of the Secretary of State over the whole of the three forces. Ireland already possesses a very efficient constabulary. A separate bill, to be

introduced by the Lord Advocate, will place Scotland under a similar control. Not only in the metropolis, therefore, will the central executive at Westminster possess an army. It will also possess an army out of red uniform throughout all three of the united kingdoms, with power in the metropolis, the English counties, and Ireland, if not in Scotland, of concentrating that force upon any point where it is necessary for the maintenance of order.

Another practical measure advanced by the author of the partnership reform has had a curious and interesting treatment. Mr. LOWE proposes to abolish passing bills upon shipping, and to reform the collection of local dues; which, in many cases, are diverted from maritime uses, and employed as simple contributions towards the corporate funds of particular towns. In some cases these tolls were the gift of the Crown to corporations, perhaps as a reward for work done. The ports that enjoy these privileges are in many cases ancient harbours, of little modern utility, such as Dover, Ramsgate, or Bridlington. Important as these stations may be for postal services, or for the comfort of sea-side visitors, they have little value as harbours for the shipping of commerce. In some cases, ancient family privileges, such as those enjoyed by the SEPTONS, of Lancashire, have been purchased by ports. Of the local dues, about £550,000 is devoted to purposes of utility for shipping; while about £400,000 is used in building, paving, and, as the advocates of Liverpool avow, in erecting edifices needed for "the ends of justice" in south Lancashire. These are very proper objects, but why they should be charged on sea-going ships it is difficult to make out. The imposts, however, find defenders. The corporations that enjoy such privileges conceive their "property" to be attacked, and those very communities that have most benefited by the extension of municipal freedom, of free trade, and other principles in vogue, stand forth like many corrupt boroughs, defending the rotten seats in Parliament. Mr. LOWE, who is making an honest step in correcting antiquated abuses, is threatened with opposition from every place where the inhabitants have some fantastic right of taking money from the pockets of sailors. On the other hand, if Liverpool is against him, he has with him the whole of South Lancashire, including Manchester and the great towns. In like manner, probably, though he is resisted by Dover, Hull, or Bridlington, he would have the counties, the metropolis, and the most important commercial classes to sustain him.

The admirable pair of bills which Mr. LOWE introduced last week to amend the law of partnership have excited an unexpected hostility. Members affected to welcome the bills; they have since called for "delay," of course as a means of defeat. The joint measure is too full and popular. It would abolish all restriction upon entering into partnership with limited liability, and would secure for shareholders a real control over their own managing officers. We shall show, next week, how truly the measure deserves popular support against those members who oppose the interests of the people in the name of the people.

Mr. COLLIER has tried once more to get an instalment of ecclesiastical reform by transferring testamentary jurisdiction to the superior courts, but he has scarcely any prospect of success. Sir RICHARD BETHELL, the Solicitor-general, confesses that he desponds. The banded purpose of lawyers, the collective bigotry of established jurisdiction, consolidated with some old Roman cement, protects those depositories of rats, four-legged and two-legged; and nothing short of abolition will prevent them from worrying the private life of the

lieges, although they stand condemned by every authority that belongs to the world of politics.

Lord WENSLEYDALE, although represented only at present by his name and patent, has created a tumult in the House of Lords. The Peers repel an unhereditary Lord. Be he judge of the highest standing, they declare that a man is degraded by being elevated for his own lifetime. Lord DERBY, who is more than "the tenth transmittée of a foolish face," the fourteenth and not foolish, leads the resistance, reinforced by LYNDHURST, ST. LEONARDS, and CAMPBELL, with BROUGHAM waverer between; while the LORD CHANCELLOR and Government enjoy the championship of Lord GREY. There are two questions at issue. In the first place, it is desirable to have more Law Lords in the Upper House; for, although the Law Lords say that there are enough already, we know that the number will soon be fewer, as most of the Law Lords would be charged high premiums by the insurance office. The LORD CHANCELLOR following Mr. FRASER MACQUEEN, to whom Lord LYNDHURST had referred the question, thinks it well to admit judges into the House of Peers, although the Crown does not undertake to admit all the judges' progeny, be they judicial, judicious, or the reverse. But, secondly, the descendants of the feudal lords of this country—who are no longer feudal lords—say that Lord WENSLEYDALE may be the first of an order of life senators whom they expect to supersede the real House of Lords. It is a revolution, they cry; and Lord CAMPBELL proposes to refuse Lord WENSLEYDALE the right of taking his seat! Lord CAMPBELL and the Peers join issue with the Crown. If the people really understood the bearing of the whole question, they would rally to the support of Ministers; for never was there a more happy fluke in the way of a great constitutional reform.

We have two official manifestations this week, both of them in the direction of our improvement; both of them, however, confess that further improvement is required. The Commissioners on the State of the Army in the Crimea have published their report. It is true that they find some of the picturesque descriptions of suffering endured by the troops to have been exaggerated. There were no regiments starving; no decimation of the force by disease, through the culpable laches of the Commissariat. But men were left without food for whole days, when food might have been furnished to them. When meat was obstructed by insurmountable difficulties, rice lay forgotten in stores. Green coffee was served out to the men, and was a minor poison causing a wholesale indisposition. Tents were kept packed up, because of misunderstandings. If the regular thing could not be provided, the Commissariat department appeared incapable of inventing a substitute, or using that which it had in hand. When one officer suggested a mode of sheltering the beasts, Lord LUCAN threatened to put him under arrest for making the suggestion; and when another officer proposed to march the horses down to the food, which could not be brought to them, he incurred the displeasure of Lord CARDIGAN. The *Times* remarks, and uses no exaggeration in saying so, that it seemed to be the purpose of the two commanding officers, whose exploits at Balaklava have become so memorable, "to destroy the cavalry division;" and if such was their purpose, few commanders in the Crimea advanced so far towards complete success.

The other official emanation is that which has been announced as "the order of merit." The veritable thing turns out to differ greatly from the idea suggested by the name. It is not an "order,"

but a "decoration." A bronze cross is to be conferred on all naval and military persons who show conspicuous valour in the presence of the enemy. In the case of the humbler ranks, the cross is to be accompanied by a pension; but in the decoration itself there will be no difference. It will bear the words "For valour." The gift, however, constitutes no real enrolment in an order. There is no brotherhood, no knighthood, no master, nothing of association; no connexion between the members of the order except the fact that they are all named in the *Gazette*. The decoration, however, is of a kind that must be highly esteemed by all who can win it; and it is really the first concession to the ranks that has yet been made.

Captain SCOBELL has tried to get an examination into the administration of the Navy; but, although assisted by Sir CHARLES NAPIER and Mr. LINDEAY, he was successfully resisted by the officials. Mr. OSBORNE can mount to the top of the Admiralty to look down into the corruptions of the Horse Guards; but when the Administrative Reform Association proposes to enter the street door of his own department, OSBORNE is firm.

The East India Company has been banqueting the first officer of the Company's army, who has risen to the chief command of the army of a Presidency, General PATRICK GRANT. Mr. WARREN, the Recorder of Hull, the eccentric Lilybeam observer, enters Parliament, as member for Midhurst. Liverpool has had its municipal preface of a public meeting in rebellion against Mr. LOWE's Tolls and Dues Suppression Bill. Among the contract trade, there have been some failures, conspicuously, we deeply regret to find, that of SCOTT, RUSSELL and Co., apparently from undertaking enterprises with too little regard for the time within which obligations were to be completed. Our ablest speculators have too little regard to the calendar and clock.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 4th.
COUNTY COURTS.

IS presenting to the HOUSE OF LORDS a petition from the corporation of Sheffield, complaining of the amount of fees exacted in County Courts, Lord BROUGHAM gave notice of his intention to bring in a bill to improve the administration of justice in those courts. The LORD CHANCELLOR stated that a bill had already been prepared by the Government, which would, to a great extent, remedy the evil complained of.

THE CLOCK AND BELLS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, in moving for copies of correspondence relating to the great clock and bells of the Palace at Westminster, complained of the confused system and contradictory authorities under which this part of the works of the new building had been conducted.—Lord GRANVILLE admitted the inconvenience, but hoped the clock and bells would be complete by the close of the present year.

The House then adjourned.

MINISTERIAL INTENTIONS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Sir GEORGE GREY, stated that the question of church-rates had been under consideration, but he could give no assurance as to whether a measure would be brought in this session. Should the House consent to allow the measures to be brought in, of which notice had been given by two members, the Government would be prepared to state its opinion at a future period.—In answer to Mr. HUTCHINS, he stated that a select committee would be appointed to consider the best mode of establishing a public road between Pimlico and Pall Mall.—Replying to Mr. WISE, he intimated that it was not intended to make any alteration in the ticket-of-leave system.—Mr. HORSMAN, in answer to Mr. MAGUIRE, mentioned that the Government did not intend to bring in a measure on the subject of ministers' money in Ireland.—Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to Mr. DILLWYN, stated that it was not intended to alter the law relative to violent assaults on women and children.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING.

The House having resolved itself into a committee on the acts relating to merchant shipping, Mr. LOWE moved for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of passing tolls and the regulation of

local dues upon shipping. It was proposed to deal with this taxation in the following manner:—The passing tolls, which rest upon no ground of justice or policy, it was intended to abolish, making provision for the discharge of debt incurred under the security of the tolls. It was proposed likewise to give powers to do away with a portion of the town dues, transferring the remainder to the Government, respecting the rights of creditors, but apportioning the debt between the dues retained and the municipal funds. The charity dues it was intended to deal with in an analogous manner, abolishing some and administering the rest through the instrumentality of the Government. Other dues would be dealt with specially, compensations being given in certain cases of abolition. The result would be an ultimate relief of shipping from a burden of about £200,000, and at the same time the getting rid of the obnoxious principle of allowing one portion of the community to tax another.

Mr. HEADLAM and Mr. HORSFALL (speaking respectively for Newcastle and Liverpool) protested against the principle of confiscating the revenues of corporations without compensation, and Mr. LIDDELL and Mr. WATSON spoke in favour of the corporations.—Mr. RICE advised that ample time should be allowed for considering the measure.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON and Mr. LINDSAY approved of the measure; and, after a few words from Mr. LOWE, leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

On the House resuming, Sir GEORGE GREY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the amendment of the Acts relating to the Metropolitan Police. The main feature of the measure is to limit the number of the commissioners to one, with two assistants.

Lord DRUMLANIG brought up the Queen's answer to the Address, which was couched in the usual terms.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES' COURT IN IRELAND.

Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD moved for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland, to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery in Ireland, increase its power, and reform its procedure. The saving by the abolition of the Encumbered Estates Court and of four Masters in Chancery, he said, would be £30,429 per annum; the expense of the new machinery established by the bill would be £16,760 per annum, and the life compensations £13,383, so that the alterations would cost the country nothing, and ultimately, by the falling in of the life compensations, there would be a saving of £14,000 a-year. The bill he proposed to introduce carried out the recommendations of the commissioners, abolishing the Encumbered Estates Court, investing the Court of Chancery in Ireland with its jurisdiction, reforming and simplifying the procedure of this Court, abolishing the masters, appointing two Vice-Chancellors, and constituting a court of Appeal from each of the equity judges. It was proposed likewise very materially to reduce, and ultimately to abolish, the fees and stamps now paid on proceedings in the court.

The measure was opposed by Mr. WHITESIDE, Mr. MALINS, and Mr. GEORGE, and was supported by Mr. CAIRNS and Mr. V. SCULLY.—Ultimately, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Some routine business having been transacted, the House adjourned at an early hour.

Tuesday, February 5th.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, the LEASES AND SALES OF SETTLED ESTATES BILL was read a second time.

SETTLEMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE POOR.

In answer to Lord BERNERS, Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY said a bill had been prepared carrying into effect the recommendations of the committee of inquiry relating to the removal of Scotch and Irish poor, but that no change in the English law of settlement and removal was contemplated.

TRIALS AT BAR.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid on the table a bill to enable the Court of Queen's Bench to send for trial to the Central Criminal Court persons charged with offences that could more suitably be tried in that court than in the court at Westminster. There was no doubt the Court of Queen's Bench had the power of removing the process from an assize town where there was likely to be a prejudice against the accused; but whether it had the power of ordering the trial in the Central Criminal Court was doubtful. The object of the bill was to settle this difficulty.—In reply to Lord DERBY, the LORD CHANCELLOR stated that the bill was in the shape of an enactment.

The House then rose.

MORTALITY IN THE CRIMEAN ARMY.

Sir DE LACY EVANS, in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, referred to a statement contained in the Report of the Commissioners who have inquired into the supplies to the Crimean army—a statement to the effect that the mortality was at the rate of thirty-five per cent. He wished to know whether any information obtained by the Commissioners would be laid upon the table of that House.—Lord PALMERSTON replied that the statistics to which Sir De Lacy Evans referred, the Com-

missioners had no instructions to collect. They had been transmitted, however, to the War Department, and thence to the Medical Department of the army for their guidance; but it did not appear to the Government that it would be advisable to have the information laid before the public. The statistics thus collected will receive due attention in the proper quarters.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. COBDEN, mentioned that there probably would be no objection to the publication of a part of the correspondence which had taken place with the United States Government on the Central American and the enlistment questions.

COMMISSIONS BY PURCHASE.

Sir DE LACY EVANS announced that, on that day fortnight, he would propose a motion for the abolition of the system of purchase in the army.—Major REID said he would postpone his motion with reference to the same subject until the motion of the member for Westminster had been disposed of.

REFORM OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

In answer to Mr. ROBERT PHILLIMORE, Lord PALMERSTON stated that the Government intended to bring in a measure for the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

PASSENGER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

Mr. WILSON, in answer to Mr. V. SCULLY, entered into some particulars with reference to the passenger communication between England and Ireland. The Government was now ready to accept tenders for the carrying of the mail in conformity with a plan arranged with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.—Mr. SCULLY then said he would move for a copy of the Treasury minutes on this subject.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to questions from Mr. GLYN, stated that it was not the intention of the Government for the present to take any steps for putting an end to the exclusive privileges of the Bank of England. With respect to "an inquiry before a committee of this House, or otherwise, into the working and effect of the act" under which the Bank carried on operations, the Government considered that a state of war, under which large remittances of bullion required to be made abroad, caused such an exceptional state of things that the Government did not intend for the present to propose any inquiry. Still, should it appear that there was a general feeling in the House in favour of inquiry, the Government would interpose no objection.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON (replying to Colonel DUNNE) said that, as soon as the preliminaries of peace were discussed and signed at Paris, an armistice would follow. The preliminaries, however, were not yet signed, and consequently the conditions of the armistice could not be specified.

MR. WILLIAM LEY.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, seconded by Mr. DISRAELI, the thanks of the House were tendered to Mr. William Ley, on his retirement from the office of Clerk-Assistant, for the ability and courtesy with which he had discharged his duties during a period of forty-two years.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS moved for an account of the gross public income and expenditure in each quarter of the year 1855, stating the cost of the revenue departments, including the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown, made out in the same form as the account of the net income and expenditure presented to the House.—Mr. WILSON recommended the withdrawal of the motion, which, after some observations by Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, was acceded to.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH POLICE.

Sir GEORGE GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to render more efficient the police in counties and boroughs in England and Wales. The objects of the bill were to make compulsory the hitherto permissive power under which justices of counties can appoint a police force; to give to the Queen in council the power to divide any county into portions for police purposes; to give county constables jurisdiction in boroughs; to give the Crown power to make rules for the management of the police, should occasion arise, and to appoint inspectors who should report to the Crown as to the state of the police throughout the country; to take away from borough constables the power of voting at elections; and to throw a portion of the expense, not exceeding a fourth, upon the consolidated fund. Boroughs with and under five thousand inhabitants would form part of the county in so far as the police force is concerned.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Mr. CHRISTOPHER NISBET, Mr. DEEDES, Mr. RICE, Mr. BUCK, Lord LOVAINE, Mr. ROBERT PALMER, and others, expressed a general approval of the measure, and made friendly suggestions.

MR. BROTHERTON'S ANNUAL MOTION.

Mr. BROTHERTON then made his annual motion in favour of the House closing its debates at midnight.—The motion was seconded by Mr. EWART (who

attributed the premature old age which so often overtakes members of the Government to the present late hours), and was supported by Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS and Mr. BASS; but was opposed by Lord PALMERSTON, who, while fully admitting the benevolent intentions of the mover and seconder of the proposal, and while acknowledging the temptation to Ministers offered by exemption from premature decay, thought so great a restriction on time would not be consistent with the duty of the Government to the Crown or to the public.

The House divided, and the motion was negatived by 111 against 50.

CHURCH RATES.

Mr. PACKE moved for leave to bring in a "Bill to abolish church rates for other than the purposes therein mentioned; to make provision for the maintenance of the fabric and necessary fittings of parish churches in certain cases; and to enable certain persons to redeem their liability to church rates, and otherwise to amend the law respecting the making, assessing, collecting, and liability to church rates in England and Wales." Mr. PACKE proposed that all Dissenters should be relieved from the payment of rates for the expenses of Divine service; that the occupiers of rateable property should be entitled to deduct the rates imposed upon them from their landlords; and that the owners of rateable property should have the power of redeeming the rates by a moderate payment.—After a few remarks from Sir WILLIAM CLAY and Mr. EDWARD BALL, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Wednesday, February 6th.

The HOUSE OF LORDS did not sit.

POSTPONEMENT OF MR. LOWE'S MEASURE.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, a conversation arose upon a motion by Mr. LOWE to put off the second reading of the PARTNERSHIP AMENDMENT BILL and the JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES BILL, which stood for that day, until Friday; Mr. ARCHIBALD HASTIE, Mr. HENLEY, Mr. SPOONER, and other members pressing for a longer postponement, to which Mr. LOWE declined to accede.

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

On the second reading of this bill, Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY inquired whether the proposed alteration in the existing law would involve any additional expense; and under what authority the sole Commissioner would act?—Sir GEORGE GREY said there would be no additional expense, but, on the contrary, a gain of £100 a-year; and that there would be no change in the authority under which the Commissioner would act.

SUPPLY.

On the report of the Committee of Supply being brought up, Mr. WILSON, in reply to a question from Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, said that the financial position of the country was such as to render unnecessary on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer any financial statement or demand for money until the votes for the ensuing year had been taken.

The remaining business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at a quarter to three o'clock.

Thursday, February 7th.

THE NEW LIFE PEERAGE.

The attention of the HOUSE OF LORDS was occupied during the whole evening by a legal debate on the new life peerage. The discussion was commenced by Lord LYNCHBURST, who moved that the letters patent purporting to create Sir James Parke a Baron of the United Kingdom for life be referred to the Committee of Privileges, with directions to consider the same and report thereon. Having disclaimed any personal objection to Sir James Parke (whose abilities and worth he highly eulogised), Lord Lynchburst contended that the creation was unconstitutional. No such instance had occurred for four hundred years; the life peerages created by Charles II. in favour of his mistresses, and by James II. and the first kings of the House of Hanover, not being parallel cases, since no seat in Parliament was attached. Earlier instances could form no precedent, as they occurred in times before the constitution was settled or defined. The measure also was impolitic, for it would divide the House of Peers into two parts, and it was injurious to place legal men (who had done much towards building up and defending the constitution of the country) in a position below the other peers. The necessity for increasing the number of law lords was not made clear. Writs of error were of rare occurrence, and, on important points of common law, the House had the power of summoning the twelve judges to assist it when sitting as the supreme court. The hereditary principle would be violated by these creations, and an element of subservience to the Crown and the Ministers would be introduced, very unfavourable to the independence of the peerage.—The motion was supported by Lord ST. LEONARDS (who entered into a long legal argument, supported by many instances, to prove the unconstitutional nature of the creation), by Lord CAMPBELL (who said that the change, effected by a simple act of the Crown, was greater than that made in the House of Commons by the Reform Bill, and who thought it might lead to depriving future Lord Chancellors and Lord Chief Justices of heredi-

tary peerages), and by Lords DERBY and BROUGHAM.

Earl GRANVILLE defended the legality of the creation, and contended that it was necessary to strengthen the judicial element of the House.—He was followed on the same side by the LORD CHANCELLOR, who took the responsibility of the creation wholly on himself, and said that he thought the question so far beyond doubt that he had not taken the opinions of the law officers of the Crown, adding that, if he had committed an error, he was ready to face an impeachment or to sit under the censure of their Lordships. The motion was also resisted by Earl GREY and the Duke of ARGYLL.

The House then divided :—

PRESENT.			
Contents	...	...	79
Non-contents	...	...	53
Majority	...	...	26
PROXIES.			
Contents	...	...	59
Non-contents	...	...	52
Majority	...	...	7

The motion therefore was carried.

The House then adjourned, at a quarter to three o'clock, having sat since five in the evening.

THE REPORT OF SIR JOHN M'NIELL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. LAYARD gave notice that, on the 21st instant, he would call attention to the report of Sir John M'Niell and Major Tulloch as to the state of the army in the Crimea.

ENLISTMENT OF TROOPS IN PRUSSIA.

LORD PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. HENRY BAILEY, whether he had any objection to lay on the table the correspondence which had taken place with the Prussian Government relative to the employment of agents for the enlistment of troops, and in reference to the arrest of her Majesty's Consul at Cologne upon the charge of being engaged in such proceedings, stated that no good could arise from the publication of the correspondence. The matter had been amicably settled. As to the Hanse Towns, no correspondence on the subject of enlistment had taken place.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

Mr. COLLIER moved for leave to bring in a bill to transfer the Testamentary Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts to the Superior Courts of Common Law and to the County Courts. Purposing to deal with only one branch of the extensive authority now exercised by the courts in question, namely, their jurisdiction over matters testamentary, the bill provided that the circuits of the several county courts should be made districts for the purpose of proving wills; that probate should be granted by the county court of the district in which the testator died; that the original will should be lodged for safe custody in the Register-office at Somerset-house; and that the county court should exercise complete jurisdiction over all undisputed testaments, holding power also to determine disputes when the amount of property bequeathed was below £300. Any litigation respecting estates of larger value was to be settled by the Courts of Common Law.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD, and supported by Mr. KEATING, Mr. AHERTON, Mr. MURTE, Sir ERSKINE PERRY (with some drawbacks), and Mr. M'MAHON, who suggested that the bill should be extended to Ireland. It was opposed by Mr. GEORGE BUTT, Mr. MALINS, Mr. R. PHILLIMORE, and Mr. J. PHILLIMORE, the last of whom deprecated piecemeal legislation on the subject, and rejoiced at the prospect of a comprehensive Government measure for the utter abolition of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, held out by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, who announced that he would not oppose Mr. Collier's motion, though he considered it insufficient. After a few more remarks from Mr. Collier, leave was given to bring in the bill.

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

Captain SCOBELL moved for a select committee to inquire into naval administration, patronage, promotions, and retirements, and the efficiency of the service in all grades. He denounced the system of placing a civilian at the head of the Admiralty, and asserted that the most gross instances of favouritism could be proved by a select committee with reference to the advancement of naval officers.—The motion was seconded by Admiral WALCOTT; supported by Colonel BOLDERO, Mr. W. S. LINDSAY, Mr. BASS, and Sir CHARLES NAPIER (who made a rather rambling speech, in which he stated that the Baltic fleet in 1854 was not equal to contending against the enemy, though animated with great zeal); and resisted by Sir CHARLES WOOD (who denied the charge of favouritism), by Admiral BERKELEY, Sir FRANCIS BARING, and Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE, the last of whom charged Sir Charles Napier with being so absorbed with his own contemplated motion on the Baltic fleet of 1854-5 that he had made a mistake, and applied a speech intended for that motion to the present motion. Mr.

Osborne also replied to the disparaging remarks on the manning of the fleet made by Sir Charles, who spoke of many of the men as "trash of landmen," some of whom had bald heads and wore spectacles, while others were ragged and without shoes and stockings. Against these allegations, Mr. Osborne quoted some of Admiral Napier's own reports. Upon a division, the motion was negatived by 171 to 80; majority, 91.

THE BALTIC CAMPAIGN OF 1854.

Sir CHARLES NAPIER postponed his motion for the production of papers referring to the campaign in the Baltic in the year 1854, until Thursday, February 14.

The House adjourned at a quarter past twelve o'clock.

THE WAR.

Less and less grows the thin stream of war news, week by week. A little movement, however, is still observable in the Crimea, where Marshal Pelissier, having been informed that the Russians, on a given night, proposed to attack the advanced division in the Valley of Balidar, in the hope of surprising it, kept eight of his divisions under arms during the whole night; but nothing ensued. When the news of the acceptance by Russia of the Austrian propositions reached Sebastopol, it was at first disbelieved; but, when doubt was no longer possible, it is stated to have caused "a feeling of complete stupefaction"—though whether among the Russians or the allies, deponent sayeth not. Trade at Kamiesch is suffering severely. The excess of supplies has caused a great reduction in prices, and led to several failures. The *Morning Post* expresses its belief that official accounts have been received of the complete destruction of the docks at Sebastopol, which have now all been blown up.

Accounts from Kertch do not possess much interest. General Vivian has purchased two thousand horses at Bucharest for the Anglo-Turkish Contingent. General Lebeuf has returned to headquarters from his visit to Kinburn. From Odessa we are told that large bodies of men are advancing in the direction of the Danube.

According to intelligence from Constantinople, the English, in case the war continues, are to send their German Legion, as well as other troops, to Asia. The negotiations for the exchange of a part of the garrisons of Kars and Kinburn are still going on. The deputation of Circassian chiefs, who had been at Constantinople for some time, have left for Trebizond. Accounts have been received from Bulgaria of disturbances having taken place with the Bashi-Bazouks at Shumla, and orders have been sent for the punishment of the rioters.

THE BALAKLAVA SWAMP.

The swamp at the head of Balaklava harbour is a nuisance which strikes one the more in proportion as other nuisances abate and disappear. Thus, when one approaches the town, over an excellent road (the best part of our high road is that from Kadikoi to the entrance of Balaklava), and sees on the one hand a railway at work and quite a village of huts and storehouses, on the other the rows of shipping in the harbour, on all sides signs of activity, commerce, civilisation, and improvement, he wonders to behold a fetid, fever-breeding morass in the very heart and centre of all this movement and business. The means that have been adopted temporarily to diminish the inconvenience have but augmented the evil. Straw has at different times been spread there, and the result is a bed of manure and a breeding-place of miasma. I understand it is intended to drive piles into the harbour in advance of this swamp, and where the water is of a certain depth, to stretch boards across the piles, so as to form a barrier, and to fill up in rear of this with shingle and ballast, of which a thick layer will be spread over the whole of the marshy ground. This is the only effectual way of putting a period to this most unwholesome nuisance. It might be worth while to make the piles of sufficient solidity, and to drive them in water deep enough for boats and lighters to discharge there; for Balaklava, the paltry fishing village, the unknown lurking-place of the smuggler, is now a port of great commerce, and has not enough of wharf room. The filling up of the swamp is one of the measures most essential to the improvement of the sanitary state of Balaklava, although I suspect that more will have to be done before the warm weather comes.—*Times' Correspondent.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE HANSEATIC CITIES AND THE WAR.—A letter from Hamburg, in *Le Nord*, gives an account of the mission of Dr. Rucker, who, it is said, was sent to London by the three Hanseatic cities to assure the English government of the falsehood of the allegations that

war materiel was being transported thence into Russia. Lord Clarendon, says the account, received the Doctor "in a manner so little diplomatic that a parallel is vainly sought in history," while Lord Palmerston cried out in the midst of the explanations, "Why, you Hamburgers are nothing but a set of smugglers!" All this, together with sundry threatnings, has grievously wounded the feelings of the citizens of Hamburg.

THE PEACE.

THE peace preliminaries progress. Turkey is said to be as anxious as Russia for the conclusion of the war; Austria is throwing her weight into the pacific scale; France would evidently rather sheath the sword; and England, though still in a belligerent mood, will, of course, throw no obstacles in the way of the Conference. The Plenipotentiaries are now settled on, and the *Moniteur* thus officially announces their names :—

"France	Count Colonna Walewski. Baron de Bourqueney. Earl of Clarendon.
"England	Lord Cowley.
"Austria	Count de Buol-Schauenstein. Baron de Hubner.
"Turkey	Aali Pacha. Mehemed Djemil Bey.
"Sardinia	Chevalier Massimo d'Azeglio.
"Russia	Count Orloff. Baron Brunow."

Yet, notwithstanding the prospects of peace, Russia continues to make military preparations in the Baltic provinces and in Poland. It is thought that the Conference will open on the 25th of February. The preliminary protocol was signed at Vienna on the 1st of February by the representatives of France, England, Austria, Turkey, and Russia; and the conclusion of an armistice was then decided on in principle. It has been determined to communicate the protocol to the Diet of Frankfurt. A despatch from Berlin says that "Saxony does not intend to recommend the Diet of Frankfurt to accept the Austrian proposals unconditionally. Nevertheless, it is believed that the probability of the restoration of peace will not fail to exercise some influence on the resolutions of the neutral States of Germany."

While signing the protocol, Prince Gortschakoff, according to *Le Nord*, requested that Prussia should be invited to take part in the Conference, Count Buol, it is added, supported the request, and the French and English Ministers took notice of it *ad referendum*. The announcement of the *Morning Post*, last week, that Prussia is to be excluded, appears, therefore, to be premature, though it may possibly be true after all. The *New Prussian Gazette* states that the participation of Prussia in the Conference of peace is so completely a matter of indifference to the cabinet of Berlin, that Prussia has determined not to take part in the negotiations, unless requested to do so by all the powers. Another account says that Prussia has voluntarily retired rather than make difficulties, but that she still asserts her right. A grand trumpet flourish is blown by the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, which, in large type, at the head of its "News of the Day," observes :—"The intelligence that Russia has accepted the proposals of Austria, relative to the bases of negotiations, has produced a profound sensation. At London and Paris, it was published officially, and was received everywhere with great joy. Hopes of peace, anticipating the event, have taken, so to speak, the character of certainties."

The French Emperor is reported to have written a letter to the Emperor Francis Joseph, in which he promises that the Fifth Point shall be interpreted "neither in the spirit of an attorney nor of a tradesman." Peace, if we may believe the statements contained in a letter from St. Petersburg, is becoming popular in that city. Even the Grand-Duke Constantine begins to acknowledge that his Imperial brother was right in accepting the Austrian terms; and Prince Menschikoff appears to be the only belligerent of any importance. He has endeavoured to get himself named representative of Russia at the Paris Congress; but, adds the letter we have just referred to, "the Emperor positively refused to intrust so important a mission to the man who was the immediate cause of the war, and he dismissed Prince Menschikoff, telling him that it would have been much better and much more useful had he exhibited at the battle of the Alma, where an opportunity was given for the display of real heroism, a conduct more in accordance with the haughtiness of his present language. The Admiral made another attempt with the Grand-Duke, with whom he has long been a favourite; but the Prince refused to receive him, and ordered the Prince, through an aide-de-camp, to proceed to Cronstadt, to perform the duties which the Emperor had intrusted to him."

The *Moniteur* republishes the official announcement of the adhesion of Russia to the Austrian proposals, with the observation that there were some errors in the first version, previously published in the *Moniteur*. The following is the corrected version :—

"Russia has adhered to the five propositions which are to serve as the preliminaries of peace, and which were presented for her acceptance by Austria, with the assent of France and England. This unreserved adhesion was announced in a note addressed by Count Nesselrode, the Russian Chancellor, to Count Esterhazy, the Austrian minister at St. Petersburg, and in a despatch communicated to Count Buol by Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian minister at Vienna. The Russian government, in consequence, proposed the signature of a protocol at Vienna, to enregister the adhesion of the contracting Courts to the propositions intended to serve as the bases of negotiation, and to declare that plenipotentiaries shall meet at Paris within three weeks (or sooner, if possible), in order to proceed successively to the signature of preliminaries, to the conclusion of an armistice, and to the opening of general negotiations.

"The British Government had already expressed a desire that the conferences should be held at Paris, and the Austrian government having, on its side, eagerly acceded to that suggestion, it is therefore in the capital of the empire that the plenipotentiaries who may be appointed to deliberate on the conditions of peace will assemble. The protocol setting forth the acceptance of all the parties was signed on February 1, at Vienna, at noon, and it was decided that the plenipotentiaries of the Powers who are to take part in the negotiations shall assemble at Paris before the 20th of February."

The armistice, when it has been agreed on, will extend to the 31st of March.

THE REPORT OF SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

THE Report of Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, the Commissioners appointed by Lord Palmerston, immediately after his accession to power, to inquire into "the whole arrangement and management of the Commissariat Department," has been published during the present week. Its tendency is to confirm the accounts already given of the frightful condition of the army before Sebastopol, in the autumn and winter of 1854-5. In the space of seven months, thirty-five per cent. of the army fell victims to overwork, improper food, insufficient clothing, and exposure to the weather. "It has only," remarked the Commissioners, "been by slow degrees and after the frequent repetition of similar details, as one witness after another revealed the facts that had come under his own observation, that we have been able to form any adequate conception of the distress and misery undergone by the troops, or fully to appreciate the unparalleled courage and constancy with which they have endured their sufferings." A great deal of the ill-health of the men is attributed to their being fed on salt meat, owing to which scurvy was generated to a fearful extent. Fresh meat, it appears, might have been procured; but it was not. The farinaceous food was for a long time confined to hard, dry biscuit; and it was not till this had produced great evils that arrangements were made for baking fresh bread. An abundant supply of rice, preserved potatoes, peas, Scotch barley, and lime-juice, lay at Balaklava and Scutari; but, though the Inspector-General of Hospitals pointed out the necessity for serving out these stores—more especially lime-juice, as an anti-scorbutic—the men remained without for a considerable period. Twenty thousand pounds of lime-juice were allowed to lie in the Commissariat stores, from the 10th of December till the first week in February, without the Inspector-General of Hospitals being informed of their existence. Mr. Commissary-General Filder appears to be saddled with the chief blame in these respects. Colonel Gordon, in giving evidence before the Commissioners, says:—"The Commissary-General seems to have desired his officers to issue rations according to his own views instead of according to the general orders of the army."

The arrangements with respect to clothing were as bad. "By the 7th of December," says a summary in the *Daily News*, "there were in store or in the harbour 10,000 rugs, a number subsequently increased to 25,000; but, while the men are stated to have suffered severely for want of sufficient covering, the return of clothing received and issued from the Quartermaster-General's store (up to the end of January) shows that the troops were supplied with only 800 out of 24,000 lying useless in the store! On the 24th and 27th December, 25,000 blankets arrived at Balaklava, but were not issued, although they would have afforded a third blanket to each man, and have given him a chance of having 'two dry blankets in his tent besides the one he usually brought in wet from the trenches.' In November, about 12,000 paillasses arrived, which would have afforded one to each man off duty; but there was no hay or straw to fill them with, and no measures were taken to procure wool or any other substitute, which the Commissioners observe might have been obtained. Had this been done, very much of the dysentery, which was the chief cause of mortality, might have been prevented. In the beginning of December, 12,000 greatcoats were received; but, during that month and January, 9,000 of these and

2,000 watch-coats remained in store, besides a reserve of between 6,000 and 7,000 at Scutari, which might easily have been made available. The reason assigned for not issuing these was, 'that the regulation of the service, as established by the Queen's warrant, did not authorise such issue more frequently than once in three years.' On the 28th of November, 6,000 militia coats and 6,000 pairs of trousers arrived at Balaklava; but, although the army was in rags, all the coats and 3,000 pairs of trousers were still in store at the end of six months—the reason assigned being 'that the Secretary at War's letters of the 9th November, announced the immediate shipment of an extra suit of clothing for each soldier,' which, however, did not arrive till the severity of the winter had passed. On whom does the blame of this rest? Colonel Gordon informs us, in his evidence, that, in consequence of instructions issued by the Quartermaster-General, 'commanding officers were in no respect responsible for any delay in receiving the requisitions for these issues, and he considers the Quartermaster-General's department alone responsible for the proper appropriation of them.' Sir Richard Airey and himself, therefore, are the persons chiefly responsible for this neglect."

With respect to Dr. Hall, the Commissioners attach considerable blame to him for want of energy in not taking decided steps to ensure attention to his requisitions. They state that "the returns of sickness and mortality furnished by the medical officers relate to matters which are beyond the limits of their inquiry, and therefore have not been submitted on this occasion."

Vegetables do not at present form a part of a soldier's rations; but the Commissioners recommend that in future they should do so. No one is specially responsible for the adaptation of the resources to the wants of the army. The Commissioners accordingly suggest that an officer of high military rank should be specially charged with the proper management of the diet. They also advise the substitution of porter for rum; and conclude with some remarks respecting the transport, the supply of hay, &c.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

FAREWELL BANQUET TO GENERAL GRANT.

THE East India Company, on Saturday evening, entertained, at a banquet of unusual splendour, Lieutenant-General Patrick Grant, who was recently appointed to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Presidency. The occasion derived unusual interest from the circumstance of General Grant's appointment being the first that has been made under the new system, which, contrary to the old, throws open the highest class of military commands to the officers of the East India Company's services. The banquet was given at the London Tavern; Mr. Elliot Macnaghten presided; and, in the absence of Lord Palmerston, the Government was represented by the Duke of Argyll, Lord Stanley of Alderley, the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, the Right Hon. W. G. Hayter, and the Right Hon. Robert Lowe. After a brief speech from the chairman, complimenting their guest on his promotion, and thanking the Government for the change which they had effected in the old system, General Grant acknowledged in terms of great gratitude the toast of his health, and paid a graceful compliment to his former leader, Lord Gough. The meeting was also addressed by Lord Gough and Admiral Lushington (who responded to the toast of the Army and Navy), the Duke of Argyll (for the Government), the Right Hon. Vernon Smith (for the Board of Control), Lord Campbell (for the House of Peers), the Right Hon. E. Ellice (for the House of Commons), the Right Hon. Robert Lowe (for the Civil Service of India), and others. In the course of his observations, the Duke of Argyll said he believed the events which had recently occurred in Western Asia are interesting to us more from their connexion with the cause of Turkey, and with those other questions in which we are concerned, than as having any direct relation to the welfare of our Indian empire. He did not think we had any occasion to dread either Russia or any other power in that direction. The same views were expressed by Mr. Vernon Smith. Lord Campbell jokingly said that, though he had been a member of the House of Lords fifteen years, he had hitherto "escaped the perils attending the discharge of that duty, and had never before been called on to acknowledge the toast of the House of Lords. Referring to the new life peerage, he promised that "if any of the gentlemen present were destined to be made peers for life, they would be sure of a courteous reception from the House of Lords." At this there was some laughter.

MR. BRIGHT ON OUR QUARREL WITH AMERICA.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday, Mr. Henry Ashworth presiding. The adoption of the report having been moved and seconded, Mr. Bright, M.P., addressed the meeting at considerable length on the subject of the threatened contest with America. He said that all our knowledge on the question is comprised in the fact that we know nothing. Mr. Bu-

chanan, the American Minister, had stated in a despatch to his Government, that, if the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen had remained two months longer in power, all the points of difference between England and the United States would have been settled. The first steps which bring on a war are often so slight, that a man would be laughed at for hinting at the possibility of hostilities ensuing; but one step follows another until, by some blundering, the honour of each party is concerned, and he cannot retract, and so the original question is lost sight of. When there was a prospect of a quarrel between England and France, some years ago—he (Mr. Bright) believed it was with regard to the Tahiti business, or something equally absurd—a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce went to Louis Philippe, remained with him all night, arguing the question, and finally made him pledge his word as a king that war should not ensue. We had "drifted" into the war with Russia, to use the expression of our own Foreign Minister—an expression which showed the feebleness and incapacity which guided the helm; and we might be "drifting" into a war with America. If we got into the position in which we were placed after the Russians crossed the Pruthi, and after the conferences in 1853, we might have a war with America, unless we do something which will be a humiliation to England; and he (Mr. Bright) was as much against doing anything that should bring humiliation on this country as any man could be. Arbitration would not settle the difficulty; because, with regard to the Bulwer-Clayton treaty, America would not abide by the result if it went against her, and being, as it were, on the spot, she would contrive to advance, and obtain ascendancy over the disputed region by some means or other, though some of her means he did not consider either very wise or very just. It was quite clear that our Government was wrong, and, although we had apologised, we had most absurdly coupled with that apology a declaration that we had nothing to apologise for, since we had always been in the right; as if a jury should say, "The man is not guilty, but we hope he will not do so any more."

The motion for the adoption of the report having been carried unanimously, Mr. Bright, in conformity with a wish subsequently expressed, drew up the annexed resolution, which was moved by the Mayor of Manchester, and agreed to without any opposition:—

"That this Chamber has observed with deep regret that difficulties have arisen between the British Government and the Government of the United States with regard to the construction of a treaty on the subject of Central America, and to attempts which are alleged to have been made to enlist men for the British army within the jurisdiction of the United States; this Chamber would urgently impress upon the Government of this country the propriety of considering these questions in a conciliatory spirit, with a strong determination to spare alike to the United Kingdom and the United States the indescribable evils which must arise from any interruption of amicable relations between the two countries."

IRELAND.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE OR WAR. — The prevailing uncertainty as to the great question of peace or war weighs heavily upon all branches of commerce on the Irish side of the Channel. Markets for every kind of produce have been woefully depressed since the first announcement of the acceptance by Russia of the five propositions; and the corn and cattle trades which had, up to that stage, reached the maximum point of prosperity, as suddenly sank to their ordinary level. However, one of the papers published in the far west—the *Ballina Herald*—mentions, among the many signs of returning Irish prosperity, as not the least significant, the unprecedentedly great number of marriages which are taking place previous to the commencement of Lent and the temporary close of the wedlock season.—*Times*.

THE GOVERNMENT PROVISION CONTRACT. — The *Dublin Mercantile Advertiser* says that one hundred and fifty tierces of pork made up in Dublin were rejected on the ground of defective casks, and that, unexceptionable casks being afterwards provided, the very same pork was again refused because it did not come up to the standard of quality.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

A season of repose appears to have settled down on India, and news is very scarce. "The only important event," says the *Times* Calcutta correspondent, "is the introduction of bills for the punishment and future government of the Santals into the Legislative Council. The rebellion itself seems again to be dying out. The troops find the Santals in their villages, and are met with professions of goodwill and offers of assistance. The Governor-General has recently taken a remarkable step in advance. He has addressed a circular to the five Governments and the commissioners of independent provinces, requiring them to prepare an annual report on the territories under their administration. Each of these reports is

to resemble a President's message, to contain the history of the presidency or province for the year. It will detail the improvements in legislation, police, education, public works, and all other departments, after the fashion of the report which Lord Elgin, some months since, presented for Canada. These reports are to be immediately published in India and forwarded to England. They will form, in the course of years, a complete index to the history of British India. Meanwhile they will show the Government at home how we are getting on, enable them to estimate the Indian rate of progress, and, above all, permit them to decide on the results of the different systems in force. I am informed that Lord Dalhousie will leave India positively on the 5th or 6th of March. Lord Canning is expected in Calcutta on the 26th of February, and for a few days will remain a guest at Government House."

CHINA.

Intelligence from China is as meagre as from India. There is absolutely no news from the interior. Imports at Canton have been in limited demand, but the tea market has been very active. A few items of intelligence are supplied by the *Times* Hong Kong Correspondent, who says:—"The American Commodore, Joel Abbot, of the United States' ship *Macedonian*, has expired, after a protracted illness. The trial of the American Consul Keenan stands over, pending the recovery of Chief Justice Hulme, who has been seriously indisposed. Commander Vansittart, of her Majesty's brig *Bittern*, has been presented with a testimonial and an address from the mercantile body in Shanghai, commending the gallant conduct of the officers and crew of the *Bittern*, and thanking them for the eminent services lately rendered to trade by the destruction of pirates on the coast. The Chinese bankers and merchants at Ningpo have also come forward to testify their gratitude, and have, among other acts, subscribed £1,000, to be forwarded to the mother of Mr. Turner, late master of the *Bittern*, who was killed in action; and £200 to each of the three seamen who lost their limbs in the engagement."

EGYPT.

Lord Canning left Egypt for India on the 13th ult. Said Pacha, the Egyptian viceroy, has been suffering from boils and ophthalmia. His temper has been very irritable; and he dismisses his doctors when he finds that they do not cure him at once. He has given great offence by insisting that the sons and relations of the higher classes shall be enrolled as soldiers as well as the lower classes. A shiekh induced a man to give his son as a substitute for the shiekh's own: on which, Said ordered the shiekh and the other man to be hanged; and the punishment was carried into execution. The public roads are in a most filthy and unwholesome state; which adds to the unpopularity of the viceroy.

PERSIA.

M. Bourée, the French minister at Teheran, is on very friendly terms with the Shah, and is endeavouring to smooth down the differences which exist between the English and Persian governments.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence speaks for itself. It will, at least, interest the reader. We print Mr. Forster's letter exactly as we received it. His allusion to *Livy* may be an allusion to one of the lost books, or it may be a slip of the pen.

(Copy.)

TO LORD PARNHAM, MINISTER OF WAR.

My Lord,—Amid the present excitement and exigencies of the State, the mind is naturally led to inquire by what means the diminished defences of the country might most effectually be recruited; and, as many expedients have been suggested to me while reflecting upon this subject, I wish most respectfully to call the attention of your Lordship to the following. In this country, my Lord, there is a large and intelligent class of men well known by the significant appellation of the *Literati*, whose poverty and ability have frequently rendered them exceedingly dangerous to the State, for the poor remuneration which they usually receive for labours, together with the consciousness of their mental superiority over the great bulk of their fellow-citizens, tends very much to make them restless and disquiet in their present position, and to declaim also against the existing state of things. It has, therefore, occurred to me, my Lord, that the junior portion of this class of individuals might easily be induced to resign the pen and assume the sword, were Government to offer them subaltern commissions in the army, with the privilege of subsequently rising to the higher grades of command by merit. By the adoption of this plan, my Lord, the disasters which have lately befallen our gallant troops in the Crimea would, in future, be prevented, for we should then have a staff of able and judicious officers, fertile in expedients, brave in action, rich and eloquent in speech, whose prowess and experience would, in all probability, preserve us from a recurrence of those evils which have been the occasion of so much sorrow and distress to this land; for, let me tell you, my Lord, that true bravery is ever associated with genuine intelligence; hence the proverb of the

ancient Romans, "*Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.*" Cromwell, Washington, Wellington, and Napoleon, were all men of superior minds, and the success of Julius Caesar may not improperly be ascribed to the strength of his understanding. His character, as briefly drawn by *Livy*, is worthy of quotation, since it serves to illustrate to some extent the assertion which I have made:—"Fuit non solum magnus Imperator," says the Roman historian, speaking of him, "*Sed etiam vir doctus, Latinam linguam maximam elegantiam et puritatem scripsit, habuit artem faciendi amabilem omnibus.*" He was not only an able commander, but a learned man also, and wrote the Latin language with great elegance and purity, and had, besides, the happy art of rendering himself agreeable to all men: indeed, my Lord, wherever a nation's annals present a general of any eminence, they present at the same time a partial philosopher. Fools may, and are, doubtless, bold enough, my Lord, but their ignorance and temerity frequently mislead them. It requires a deep, penetrating mind in times of war to foresee the happy moment when bravery will result in positive advantage. The man, therefore, who has long been engaged in philosophical researches, in devising plots and escapes, in inventing arguments and rendering reasons, seems to me, my Lord, pre-eminently fitted to undertake the command of an army in the day of battle. Granting him, however, to have acquired previously a competent knowledge of the duties of a soldier, his ideal creations qualify him for perilous realities; his imaginary wars, depicted with so much pathos, eloquence, and judgment, fit him for actual engagements; for surely, my Lord, there is nothing unreasonable or extravagant in the supposition that the mind which is able to devise the plot of a tale, and to conduct the hero and heroine to final happiness and success, after encountering innumerable hardships, difficulties, and wrongs, must be better qualified to exercise the arts and strategies of war than the mind which never composed a paragraph. Why then, my Lord, not call forth from the garrets and back-rooms of our large towns and cities the talents there withering in obscurity, employed only in execrating the impolicy of statesmen and their own wretched fate? The necessities of the country require the exercise of genius wherever it is found, whether in the cottage of the poor or the palace of the great. The summons, my Lord, would be immediately responded to by thousands of nature's nobility, ready to distinguish themselves in the cause of humanity and justice, and whose wisdom and valour might contribute in no small degree toward retrieving England from her present difficulties and embarrassments.

My Lord, far be from me the wish to speak disparagingly of the British aristocracy; nevertheless, when I say that the late mismanagement of the Government, and the utter incapacity which our general officers, with few exceptions, have uniformly displayed during the present war, is patent to the world, I speak but the sentiments of my countrymen in general; and, unless some expedient be adopted similar to that which I have suggested to your Lordship, in order to recover the ground which we have already lost, England, once the pride and terror of the world, will very soon descend to a second or third-rate power among the nations of old Europe. Hitherto, my Lord, the nobility have exclusively enjoyed all posts of emolument and trust in the State, qualified or not; but the honour of old England must in future be committed to the custody of abler hands than those who have recently controlled her destiny. Merit, and merit only, my Lord, must henceforth form the stepping-stone to civic eminence and distinction. The flowers which have hitherto wasted their sweetness on the putrid atmosphere of murky tenements, must shortly emerge from their lowly habitations, to shed their fragrance in the Council Chambers of the State, and aristocratic incapacity be driven from the offices which it has too long injuriously occupied; in a word, my Lord, private interests must in future succumb to the weal of the commonwealth. Nothing less than this will satisfy the country; and you, my Lord, as Chief Minister of War, have now a favourable opportunity of taking precedence of your peers in the work of desired reformation.

In conclusion, my Lord, permit me to say that the homage which officers of every grade are allowed to exact of the common soldier will ever prevent intelligent young men from entering the army merely as recruits. It requires a nature less dignified and susceptible than that of the humble author to brook the insolence of commissioned fops; place him, however, in a position which secures against the contumely of wealth, and he will readily exchange the precarious subsistence which he derives from the labours of his pen for the settled stipend of a subaltern; but so long as opulence alone must dominate where intelligence should rule, so long, my Lord, will genius endure the privations of poverty.

Your Lordship's humble and obedient servant,
(Signed) JOHN FORSTER.
Foot of Percy-street, Tynemouth,
June 11th, 1855.

(Copy.)

War Department, 18th June, 1855.

SIR,—I am directed by Lord Parnham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 11th instant, and, in reply, to express his Lordship's great regret that your exertions should hitherto have been attended with so little benefit to yourself; but I am to observe, with regard to your remarks on the want of greater ability in the army, that, in requiring a good education as an indispensable requisite for officers of the army, the Government does as much as can be done towards the recognition of literary qualifications.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOHN CROOMER.
Mr. John Forster, foot of Percy-street,
Tynemouth.

CONTINENTAL NOTES

FRANCE.

It is said (writes the *Times* Paris correspondent) that a circular note has been addressed by the Count de Chambord to his principal partisans in Paris and the departments. They are earnestly recommended by the Prince to contribute, so far as their means allow, for the relief of the working classes during this rigorous season, when the necessities of life are so dear. They are requested to suggest to the organs of the Legitimist party the propriety of speaking in the highest terms of the bravery of the French army, and, indeed, to omit no occasion of rendering homage to it. They are also strongly advised to forget any dissension that may still subsist between the Orléanists and themselves; to promote a good understanding between the partisans of the two branches; to imitate in every respect the union that has been effected between the Princes of the House of Bourbon, and to render the fusion between them still more complete.

The *Moniteur* announces that the marriage of the Princess Augusta Bonaparte, daughter of his Highness Prince Charles Bonaparte, with his Excellency Prince Gabrielli, her cousin, was celebrated at the Imperial Chapel of the Tuileries, their Majesties the Emperor and Empress being present.

The Queen's Speech on the opening of the English Parliament has excited great discussion in Paris, and various opinions have been expressed. By some, it is regarded as a very dignified document, exhibiting a fitting and majestic reserve; others think that a warmer mention might have been made of the French alliance; and the omission of all reference to the Queen's visit to Paris last August is remarked on as singular.

The use of chloroform on the occasion of the approaching family event in the Imperial circle at Paris is being discussed. The suggestion is urged from high quarters on this side of the Channel.

The Emperor's desire for peace is said to be owing to his wish to develop internal improvements; among other projects, to impart activity to the *Crédit Foncier* by enabling it to profit by the credit of the State, with a view to the improvement of agriculture.

RUSSIA.

Prince Paskiewitch, the Viceroy of Poland, has at length expired after a lingering and painful illness from cancer in the breast.

By a judgment of a court-martial, ratified by the Emperor, Prince Biberson, a Caucasian Prince, and sub-ensign in the Finland battalion of the line, is condemned to be degraded to the ranks, and to be removed to another battalion, as well as to the loss of his nobility, for theft.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Moldavian people, who had shown such warm and spontaneous enthusiasm at the news of the taking of Sebastopol, were desirous of testifying in a still more effectual manner their admiration of the Allies and their sympathies for the cause which they support. Subscription lists were opened throughout the whole of Moldavia in favour of the wounded, and a sum of 4,420 ducats (54,543 francs) had already been collected. MM. Negri and Balleti, the Moldavian Ministers on a mission at Constantinople, have just received instructions to pay that sum into the hands of the French ambassador in that capital.—*Letter from Jassy in the Moniteur.*

SPAIN.

In the Cortes, the discussion of the electoral bases is being proceeded with. The *Gazette* contains an article filled with praise of the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier for their charitable acts at Seville.

The Madrid journals of the 29th ult. publish exciting intelligence from the Basque provinces, stating that the local authorities at Vittoria have discovered the clue to a democratic conspiracy on the part of a number of sergeants of the army, and have been, in consequence, compelled to take precautionary measures. The Government contradicts in the *Gazette* the fact of there being any such conspiracy. The *Gazette* says that disorderly symptoms among the working classes have been perceived, arising from the high prices of food and the common necessities of life, but precautions have been taken, and there has been no disturbance.

M. Brull, the Minister of Finance, will withdraw the project of law respecting the import duties. It is in contemplation to establish an impost on all spirituous liquors.

The diligence from Grenada to Madrid has been carried away by the current on attempting to cross a stream; and all—driver, postilion, and passengers—perished.

PORTUGAL.

The Councillor Hedefonso Leopoldo Bayard has been assassinated at his own door at night, by some one who shot him from the inside, and who had opened the door in answer to the Councillor, who was returning from his club. M. Bayard had recently made a will, in which he bequeathed legacies to his servants. Suspicion fell on them, and the police entered the house. On this, the murdered gentleman's valet got hold of a razor, and cut his throat so frightfully that he is not expected to live. Report speaks highly of M. Bayard's kindness and excellence of heart.

DENMARK.

The Provincial Diet of Holstein has passed, after a long debate, and by a majority of 40 to 6, a resolution declaring its want of confidence in the Minister Scheel. A second resolution, carried by 41 to 7 votes, authorises Scheel's impeachment.

A decree of the King of Denmark, addressed to the Royal Commissioners at the Diet of Holstein, annuls this resolution. His Majesty has also refused to accept any address.

HOLLAND.

It is very agreeable to have to announce (says a correspondent of the *Morning Post*) that the unhappy differences which lately existed between the King and Queen have been arranged in a very satisfactory manner.

ITALY.

A demand has been presented to the Congregation of Rites at Rome for the beatification of Queen Maria Christina of Naples, daughter of King Victor Emanuel I. of Sardinia, and first wife of the reigning King of Naples. Her Majesty died in 1836.

The despotic vagaries of King Bomba, after slackening for a time, have again commenced, according to an account transmitted by the Neapolitan correspondent of the *Daily News*, who says:—"The history of the police in this country must always form a subject of interesting inquiry, especially after its notorious antecedents. I am assured, therefore, that Bianchini is regarded as the *ad interim* director of police; Mazzini still exercises immense control, together with Madaloni and Gilardoni. Indeed, this triumvirate may be described as being in opposition to Bianchini, who is really a gentleman and a man of mild character: by these it is said that his instructions are sometimes countermanded, and hence continual recriminations. The prisoners of Montefusco—whence Pico and his associates were removed to Montesarchio—have of late, for some reason or other, been treated more harshly. A few days since, an advocate named Bascone was liberated from prison. He was arrested with Miguonna and a number of others, amounting to thirty-five, in the month of October last. The charge brought against them was that they were members of the Mazzini party. Bascone and Miguonna, it will be remembered, were cruelly beaten before any trial. The former has just been liberated, nothing having been proved against him; whilst the latter is still in prison. It is a singular fact that the very man, Pierrot, by whose evidence they were arrested, has himself been imprisoned on the ground of his being a Liberal. It will awaken your surprise when I tell you that a hero has been found to defend the recent acts of the Neapolitan government. The name of this courageous individual is M. Jules Gondon, the editor of the *Univers*, and the form in which he has conducted his defence is in a series of letters to Mr. Bowyer, whose admiration of Rome and of Roman government and institutions created some sensation last year."

English Liberals will learn with pain that the editor of the Turin journal, the *Diritto*, has been sentenced to fifteen days' imprisonment and two hundred francs fine for publishing in his journal a severe article against Louis Napoleon. It is melancholy to find the only constitutional state of Italy thus abusing itself for the sake of currying favour with a powerful and despotic neighbour.

The Sardinian ambassador is to leave Constantinople in a few days. The *Journal de Constantinople* states that he has been recalled by his Government to take part in some important councils. He is replaced in the Turkish capital by the Chargé d'Affaires.

TURKEY.

The Sultan has approved of the project of reform in the internal administration of the empire, by virtue of which all Christians are to be eligible to public functions. This project contains nineteen articles. All other disabilities are to be removed, and the Turkish administrations are to be thoroughly reformed. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has drawn up a long document, embodying the general ideas of the Christian powers on this subject: this document, with a few modifications, was accepted by his colleagues.

OUR CIVILISATION.

A FAMILY MURDERED.

A WHOLE family—consisting of a wife and her three children—has been murdered in Portland-street, Soho.

William Bousfield—a French polisher by his ordinary trade, but who has recently been employed chiefly as a supernumerary at Covent Garden Theatre, at a shilling or eighteenpence a night—is the murderer. He has the appearance of being a dissipated man of about thirty-seven years of age; but his acquaintances say that he is temperate in his habits. It is reported that his wife frequently upbraided him with being an "idle, worthless fellow," and that he was jealous of her, and reproached her with being too free with the customers who frequented a little shop for the sale of snuff, stationery, toys, &c., which she kept. On the night of Saturday last, a neighbour went to this shop after it was closed, knocked at the door of the parlour occupied by Bousfield and his wife and three children, and asked to be served with some wood. Mrs. Bousfield replied in a cheerful voice that they were in bed, and she asked her husband to get up and bring the wood. He muttered something inaudibly, but did not rise; and Mrs. Bousfield said she would be up by six o'clock the next morning. In the course of that night, however, she and her children were killed. The woman's father—a carpenter—lived in the same house; but neither he nor any other occupant heard the least disturbance during the night. On the following morning, about seven o'clock, Bousfield went to the Bow-street police station, and told the inspector he had killed his wife. The police were sent to the house he indicated; and there, in the back parlour, the door of which the constables broke open, the dead bodies of the wife and two of the children were found lying on a French bedstead; the body of the third child being discovered in a press in the same room. All the bodies were shockingly mangled; the bedclothes were saturated with blood; smears and splashes of blood were found on the floor, on the door and door-posts, and on articles of furniture; and a bloody chisel and razor lay on the bed. Medical assistance was called in, but it was too late.

In the meanwhile, Bousfield was searched at the station-house; and while this was proceeding he threw himself forward, and tried to strike his head against the mantelpiece, crying, "Oh! kill me out of the way!" He then added, "Fetch a doctor for my poor wife." A wound on his neck, covered with blood, and another on his wrist, were discovered.

Jones, the father-in-law of Bousfield, had paid house-rent, doctors' bills, and other expenses for the family, whom he had put into the business in Portland-street; but it would seem that Bousfield was in needy circumstances.

The woman was twenty-eight years of age; the children, respectively, six years, four years, and eight months old.

Bousfield was examined on Monday before the Marlborough-street magistrate, and was committed for trial. An inquest on the bodies has terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder.

THE LATE BURGLARY AT PORTSEA.—William May, a man dressed like a sailor, is now in custody, charged with being concerned in the burglary recently committed on the premises of Messrs. Emmanuel, jewellers, at Portsea.

THE GOLD ROBBERIES BETWEEN LONDON AND PARIS.—A Mr. John Hall, who is stated to be possessed of considerable property, has been charged at the Mansion-house with having had in his possession fifty ounces of gold in bars, supposed to be a part of that which was stolen last May in its transit between London and Paris. A large amount of gold and notes was discovered by the police at his house. While they were searching, he fell down insensible; and, during his examination at the Mansion-house, he fainted. He had been in the habit of selling the gold at the shop of Messrs. Johnson and Walker, gold-refiners, of Aldersgate-street. A reward was obtained by the police, and bail was accepted.

OUR CLERICAL CIVILISATION.—Archdeacon Sandford has published a charge in which he makes some very free, but extremely just, remarks on the effect of clerical delinquencies, and the best mode of punishing them. He observes:—"Had we, the clergy, been more blameless in our lives, more apostolic in our labours and demeanour, more free from the taint of filthy lucre; had our walk and teaching been better exponents of the Christian Church, we should have had fewer adversaries to contend with, more friends to rally round the cause we advocate. In a measure we are suffering, and the Church with us, for the faults of our own order. And it would teach us caution, even in things apparently indifferent, if we bore in mind that while by earnestness and charity, and a holy fear of offending, we may uphold the cause of God's Church and truth in the worst of times; so does it suffer in the estimation and affection of the people by any apparent deficiency on our part in

piety, or modesty, or discretion. If we would have the hearts of our flocks, we must be tolerant, even of their prejudices; if we would guide them, we must rule ourselves; if we would have them deferential, we must be ourselves subordinate. Above all, the laity must feel that the standard we propose to them we are willing to have applied to ourselves. Great scandal has been caused not only by flagrant instances of clerical misconduct, but by the difficulty of dealing with these; cases of notorious immorality have been left unpunished, criminal clergy allowed to retain their cures for years, to the almost irreparable detriment of the Church and religion, in consequence of the inadequate provision of the law, and the difficulty and cost of prosecuting the offender to conviction. Under such circumstances, it is idle to blame Church authorities. The doctrine of the Church, as recited in her 26th Article, is indeed plain and peremptory, but in practice it is a dead letter. How can we expect parishioners to impeach, or churchwardens to present, or bishops to call offenders to account, when the result may only be a ruinous expense to themselves, and the evasion of the culprit through the want of precision in the law?

For myself I will only say that the committing cases of clerical delinquency to a commission exclusively or mainly composed of clergymen, seems to me objectionable. It is, I believe, generally held that the clergy as a body are not good judges of evidence; at least, we have the recorded opinion of a distinguished legal authority to this effect. And though I believe that in our anxiety to avoid an appearance of partiality, we should be apt to go into just the opposite extreme, it would be nearly impossible for us to escape a suspicion of favouring the accused." When the Church is thus painted by itself, how are we to wonder at dissent in its manifold shapes?

THE PRISONS OF ENGLAND.—The twentieth report of the Inspectors of Prisons in England was published last Saturday. It has reference to the prisons in the southern and western districts, and mentions some disgraceful cases of mismanagement. At Brecon, one of the prisoners was so depressed in spirits from long confinement that he was excused from hard labour at the request of the inspector. In the Cardiff county gaol, the accommodation is most inadequate, and the prisoners are all associated together, without any work, in the most demoralising manner, in utter disregard of the law. At Haverford-west gaol, the greater humanity of the French law of imprisonment for debt is forcibly called to mind, when it is found that an old man of seventy years of age is incarcerated in a noisome prison for a debt of £124 and interest. The gaol of New Radnor is a disgrace to the nation, and, although it ought only to be used as a house of temporary detention, prisoners have been kept there a whole fortnight. The "airing yard" was found to be occupied by two donkeys and a large hog, it being, too, evidently their ordinary abode. At the new prison of Wellstree is no convenience for prisoners seeing their legal advisers in private—"a defect" (remarks the report) "of very serious magnitude." At the Exeter county prison, the barbarous practice of cutting the prisoners' hair too short is condemned by the inspector. At the Exeter city gaol, the system is abominably defective, and rather adapted "to foster than to repress the growth of crime." At Plymouth the large accession of prisoners for refusing to go to sea after signing articles is noticed, and at this prison a prisoner contrived to escape through a hole twelve inches long by six and three-quarters broad. At Tiverton, a debtor complained of the chaplain for refusing him the privilege of having one of his own books to read. This work, so dangerous in the eyes of the chaplain, turned out to be Milton's great epic, whereupon the inspector reversed the rev. gentleman's decision.

BAD MONEY.—A very lamentable case of false accusation against an innocent person, in connexion with supposed bad money, has been revealed within the last few days in the law courts. An action has been brought in the Court of Queen's Bench against a shopkeeper in the Regent Circus, for the false imprisonment of Miss Eliza Greaves, a daughter of Lieutenant Greaves, one of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners. Miss Greaves is employed in a millinery establishment, and she made a purchase at the shop in question. The change was not immediately given; and at length a policeman was introduced into the shop, and Miss Greaves was given into custody, charged with uttering false coin. She asserted her innocence, and begged that she might not be carried off in custody; but the shopman thought it was necessary to make "an example," and Miss Greaves was conveyed to the station-house. At night, however, it was discovered that the money, after all, was not bad. The coin had been accidentally placed in contact with quicksilver, had got covered with that metal, and in consequence presented a greasy appearance, and sounded dull. At the station-house, Miss Greaves was subjected to great indignity. She was stripped, in order to find if she had any more false coin about her; and her mouth was violently opened, with the same view. The defendants pleaded in court that they had published an apology in the

newspapers, and had tendered indemnity to the amount of £10. The court did not consider this sufficient, and awarded £20 damages.—Another action for false imprisonment has been brought in the Court of Queen's Bench. The complainant was a young Frenchwoman, named Louise Gressier, a corset-maker, who was wrongfully given into custody for stealing some silver spoons. In this case, also, the young woman was stripped and searched at the station-house. £1 was offered as a compensation; but the jury awarded £15.—Two men have been separately charged at the Mansion-house with passing bad money. The facts were strongly against them; but, as the Mint refused to prosecute, they were discharged. The practice of passing bad money has increased to an alarming extent in the City; and the Lord Mayor expressed great surprise at the refusal of the Mint to aid in punishing the offenders. He recommended that a public meeting should be held on the subject. Eight persons, men and women, have been found guilty at the Central Criminal Court, of coining, and have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

BURGLARY MADE EASY.—William Norton, Thomas Norton, Louisa Norton, a woman of the name of Enright, and a man named Kelly, are under remand at Guildhall, charged with breaking into the warehouse of a silk merchant in Crown-court, Old Broad-street. Some detective officers watched the premises, and saw William Norton, a boy, assisted by his mother, place a ladder against the house, climb up to one of the windows, wrench it open, and enter the warehouse, the ladder all the time being steadied by the mother. They were subsequently arrested, together with the others, who appeared to have been privy to the entrance; but Enright was discharged. The others were remanded for a week.

THE WILL FORGERY AND POISONING AT MANCHESTER.—James Monaghan, Edmund Dunn, Terence M'Loughlin, and James Keefe, have been committed for trial on the charge of forging the will of John Monaghan. George Barry, another of the accused, has been discharged.

THE MURDER IN THE MINORIES.—Thomas William John Corrigan has been found guilty of the wilful murder of his wife. The facts will be fresh in the recollection of our readers; and we may therefore confine ourselves on the present occasion to the defence suggested by Corrigan's counsel. This was that, owing to *delirium tremens*, the accused was in a state of temporary insanity, and unaccountable for his acts. It appeared from evidence that there was no immediate cause of quarrel between Corrigan and his wife; that he was generally a quiet harmless man, though his wife was sometimes violent, and would strike him; that he was subject to fits of *delirium tremens*, owing to habits of intoxication, though he was only twenty-nine; that on these occasions he would get his wife to sit up all night, because he fancied something was hanging round the bed; that some few days before the murder, while intoxicated, he struck a young man out of doors without any motive; and that, at the time of the fatal attack on his wife, he appeared in a perfectly wild and frantic state, and not to have any clear conception of what he was about. Mr. Justice Wightman, however, summed up in favour of a conviction, as it did not seem to him that there was sufficient evidence of the accused being actually out of his mind. The jury therefore found him guilty, and he was sentenced to death. He was removed from the bar greatly affected. In a letter written to Mrs. Fearon, one of the persons he wounded, he observes, in a somewhat mechanical spirit of weighing murder, "My God! if I had wounded you in a vital part, as well as my wife, what would have been my torture to know that I had committed two murders!"

THE MURDER IN BEDFORD-ROW.—Charles Broadfoot Weston, aged twenty-five, and described as a clerk, has been tried at the Central Criminal Court for the murder of George Waugh. On being required to plead, he at first said "Guilty," but hurriedly corrected himself, and added "Not guilty." The facts having recently appeared in these columns need not now be repeated. The defence was insanity; and several witnesses were examined to show that Weston habitually exhibited signs of a disordered intellect. The jury, after consulting for some time in the box, retired, and were in deliberation about three-quarters of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of "Guilty of wilful murder," but recommended the prisoner to mercy, on account of his strong predisposition to insanity. Under these circumstances, Mr. Justice Wightman, having consulted with Mr. Justice Willes, abstained from passing sentence of death, and merely ordered judgment of death to be recorded. The prisoner, upon this, stepped in front of the dock, and said, "I never made any defence; I never gave orders for any; what they have done they have done for themselves; I have been perjured away." He then turned round and walked from the bar. During the whole of the trial, he stood leaning against the head of the steps leading from the dock, and not close to the bar, which is the usual place for prisoners while on their trial. Mr. Clarkson, Mr. Clerk, and

Mr. Giffard conducted the prosecution. The prisoner was defended by Mr. Ballantine, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. F. H. Lewis.

SHOWING HIS TALONS.—Anthony Rush and George Tallon have been found guilty of burglary. On hearing the verdict, Tallon, who is a little, high-backed, evil-looking fellow, about nineteen years of age, exclaimed, "You cannot find me guilty; there was no mark of violence on the place I broke into." He was told that made no difference, as the unlawful opening of a door constitutes burglary. Upon being sentenced, together with his companion, to six years' penal servitude, Tallon exclaimed, "Do you call this a fair trial?" and, drawing from his pocket a piece of coal about the size of a large apple, threw it with great force and precision at the head of the Recorder. Fortunately, the Recorder observed the movement, and, by quickly moving his head upon one side, escaped a blow which would have done him a serious injury, for the missile struck the wall close by the side of his face and broke into pieces. The prisoners were then secured and taken away, the Recorder directing that, for the future, prisoners should be more carefully searched before being placed in the dock.

THE ATTACK ON MR. CLARKSON.—Edward Bailey, a porter, has been found guilty of the highway attack on Mr. Clarkson, the barrister, who is even yet suffering in the neck from the grip with which he was seized. He has been sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

MORE RAILWAY PLATFORM ROBBERIES.—James Godfrey, and Emily, his wife, fashionably dressed persons, have been sent to prison for three months each, for picking pockets on the platform of the Waterloo Road station of the South Western Railway.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—Some cows were sent up to Paddington by the Great Western Railway a few days ago, and, on their arrival, it was found that they were in a state of great fear and agony from the motion of the train. Some of them being in calf at the time, the railway officials provided for their comfort by putting them into separate pens with straw; but, in about half an hour, they were removed (while still in great pain, and while one had not fully calved) by James Waterman, a drover, who used a stick towards them to drive them out of the pens. A railway porter remonstrated; but he persevered, though the people outside called "Shame!" Waterman was summoned at Marylebone by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; but the case is remanded.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—Thomas Stevens has been acquitted of the charges of forging and uttering an acceptance to a bill of exchange for £35, and of obtaining goods by false pretences. The facts have already appeared in the *Leader*.—George Saunders and Edmund Everson, young men, have been found guilty of a robbery, with great violence, on Mr. Walker in Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. They were sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—William Edward Smith has been found guilty of the manslaughter of James Price, an elderly man. Price went into a public-house, drunk, grossly insulted Smith, and struck him off his seat. Smith then knocked down Price, who fell upon the edge of the tap-room table and was killed. The jury recommended Smith to mercy, on account of provocation; and he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

THE CITY FORGERIES.—John Windle Cole, Cosmo William Gordon, and Daniel Mitchell Davidson, were again placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, charged with conspiracy to obtain goods by false pretences. The prosecution, however, was abandoned, as, in the event of a conviction, they could not receive any further punishment than that which they are already suffering for the offences of which they have previously been found guilty.

THE RELIGIOUS IMPOSTOR.—John Marioni, the Italian image boy who, by pretence of being very religious, imposed upon a Mr. Ford of Great George-street, Westminster, has been sentenced to three months' hard labour. On his re-examination, it was shown that he had imposed on many other gentlemen in a similar manner—some of them clergymen, on whose credulity he worked by asking for the loan of Bibles, or for money to buy Bibles, and attributing his conversion to Protestantism to a Bible presented to him by a daughter of Dr. Hook of Leeds.

THE SHOT ROBBERY IN THE BELVIDERE-ROAD.—William Burns and Isaac Jonas have been committed for trial on the charge (already detailed in this paper) of stealing shot from their employers. Winter and Smith have been discharged.

STATE OF TRADE.

The advices respecting the trade of the manufacturing towns during the week ending last Saturday (says the *Times*) are all satisfactory. At Manchester, the demand for finished goods has been sufficiently steady to sustain quotations, while in yarns a very active business has taken place, owing to the revival of confidence among the continental, and especially the German, manufacturers, consequent upon the expectation of peace. From Birmingham, the accounts of

the iron-market show no material alteration, although prices are in some degree weakened by underselling on the part of needy firms, who find it difficult to contend with the present rates of discount. With regard to the general occupations of the place, a tendency towards improvement continues observable. The half-yearly meetings of the various banking companies have passed off well, and in the case of the Dudley and Westbromwich Company a better result has been shown than was expected after their losses a year ago.

The Nottingham report is highly favourable as regards the demand both for lace and hosiery. In the woollen districts there is fair employment, stocks are moderate, and the home and export orders are alike show signs of improvement. The Irish linen-market is without alteration, and reliance upon the prospects of the year is undiminished.

The suspension of Messrs John Scott Russell and Co., the firm at whose works at Millwall the great ship for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company is in course of construction, has been announced. Their liabilities are stated to amount to £180,000, and the value of their assets will depend much upon the success of arrangements in progress to prevent the abandonment of some of their principal contracts. Measures have already been taken which will secure the building of the Eastern steamship from being impeded, and it is said that, if similar means can be adopted with regard to the completion of other vessels and works on hand, a comparatively favourable result may be anticipated. A meeting of creditors is called for next Tuesday.

RAILWAY RIVALRY.—Another feud has just broken out between the directors of the Great Northern, the Midland, the London and North-Western, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railways. Substantially the contest lies between the directors of the two great lines of railway which run from London to the North. In 1851, when the Great Exhibition was open, these companies conveyed passengers to the metropolis at ruinously low fares; but, ultimately, their differences were adjusted by referring the matters in dispute to the arbitration of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. Under the "Gladstone Award," as the arrangement was called, the traffic to and from ten towns, or competing points, at which rival claims arose, was divided between the companies in certain proportions, receipts in excess having to be handed over to the company entitled to it, subject to a deduction at a fixed rate for working charges. This agreement has just expired, and, it appears, the traffic managers of the several companies concerned recently had a meeting, at which the terms of a fresh agreement were drawn up. It is said, that the directors of the Great Northern refused to sanction this arrangement, and thus the companies were left in the same state of open competition they were in before Mr. Gladstone made his award. The terms of this award the Midland, the London and North-Western, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire companies were willing to renew, but the Great Northern decline to do so. The great bulk of the through traffic between London and the North has been carried over their line, and they have had to pay over to the Midland Company something like £26,000 per annum, receiving for working expenses twenty per cent., the actual cost being forty-five per cent.; the directors of the Great Northern therefore demand another reference, which the other companies refuse to accede to, and the Midland directors have already resumed a competition at ruinously low fares, with extra fast trains. At present, the Great Northern directors have not followed this example; but it is said by the officials that, if they do enter into competition at all, it will be in such a manner as to compel the shareholders in all the undertakings concerned to interfere.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

A NEW ORDER OF VALOUR.—A new naval and military decoration, to be styled "the Victoria Cross," and to consist of a Maltese cross of bronze, with the royal crest in the centre, and underneath an escroll, bearing the inscription "For valour," is to be instituted. In the royal proclamation announcing this new decoration, the preamble sets forth that, in the case of medals granted to soldiers after a remarkable action, all share equally in the boon, and therefore there is no distinctive reward for particular acts of more than ordinary valour; the third class of the Order of the Bath being limited, except in very rare cases, to the higher ranks of both services. The chief provisions are as follow:—"It is ordained that any one who, after having received the Cross, shall again perform an act of bravery, which, if he had not received such Cross, would have entitled him to it, such further act shall be recorded by a bar attached to the ribbon by which the Cross is suspended, and for every additional act of bravery an additional bar may be added. It is ordained, with a view to place all persons on a perfectly equal footing in relation to eligibility for the decoration, that neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstance

or condition whatsoever, save the merit of conspicuous bravery, shall be held to establish a sufficient claim to the honour. It is ordained that every warrant officer, petty officer, seaman, or marine, or non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall have received the Cross, shall, from the date of the act by which the decoration has been gained, be entitled to a special pension of £10 a-year, and each additional bar conferred under rule four on such warrant or petty officers, or non-commissioned officers or men, shall carry with it an additional pension of £5 per annum.

THE OLD STORY.—Captain Lord Edward Russell is appointed to be paid aide-de-camp, and Captain George Elliott to be aide-de-camp, to her Majesty.—*Observer.*

ADMIRAL SIR EDMUND LYONS, G.C.B., will return to the command in chief of the Mediterranean and Black Sea fleets in a few days.

THE GUNBOAT FLOTILLA AT PORTSMOUTH has commenced forming at the Motherbank. Each boat, instead of one gun, as in the last campaign, is armed with two heavy long-range guns and two howitzers. There are twenty-six at Portsmouth already fitted and in commission.

A BARONETCY FOR SIR JOHN BURGONE.—Her Majesty has been pleased to confer a baronetcy upon Lieutenant-General Sir John Burgone, K.C.B., in consideration of the long and faithful services which, from an early period in the late war down to the siege of Sebastopol, have connected his name with the principal achievements of the English army.

NEW PROMOTIONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.—In the *Gazette* of Tuesday appear the names of some twenty or thirty military and naval officers, most of whom have been promoted for their services, either in the Peninsular or in the present war, to the second and third divisions of the Order of the Bath. The English public will recognise among them, with satisfaction, Major-General William Fenwick Williams, the gallant defender of Kars.

SHIPWRECKS.

LOSS OF THE EMIGRANT SHIP JOSEPHINE WILLIS.—A collision took place in the Channel off Folkestone on Sunday evening between the Josephine Willis, Captain Canney, one of the London and New Zealand line of packet ships, and a powerful iron screw-steamer called the Mangerton, bound to the Thames from Limerick. The former vessel had passed the South Foreland, and was proceeding very satisfactorily, when, about half-past seven o'clock, Sandgate bearing S.S.W., nine miles distant, a cry was raised by the look-out forward of "Light ahead!" The Mangerton bore on, struck the Josephine Willis amidships, and cut her down to the water's edge. The passengers endeavoured to scramble on board the Mangerton; but only a few succeeded, and Captain Bouchier, of that vessel, almost immediately backed away from the wreck. Captain Canney, of the Josephine Willis, behaved with noble self-possession, and directed the passengers to come aft. The ship then heeled over, with the ends of her yards in water, and shortly afterwards sunk. At midnight, a boat from the wreck containing several of the crew, reached Folkestone, and efforts were made to save the other passengers, but in vain. The captain was drowned. The Mangerton—the bows and stem of which were completely driven in—made no effort to save those on board the wreck, but proceeded to Deal, where she anchored, having previously picked up a boat containing several persons. An inquiry has been commenced, but is not yet concluded. About seventy persons are missing.

TOTAL LOSS OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP POLYPHEMUS.—A telegraphic despatch from the English Minister at Copenhagen says:—"The Polyphemus was totally lost on the 29th ult., south of Hansholm Light, north-west coast of Jutland. The master and fourteen hands were drowned; the stores, &c., will be saved. It will be useless and dangerous to send assistance from the seaward. A part of the cutter's and ship's crews having reached a vessel in the offing makes the number of lost doubtful. A strong current and fog were the cause of the accident. Land was not seen, though within four hundred yards."

THE AMERICAN BRIG WEBSTER, Captain Heath, belonging to Bucksport, United States, on her voyage from Cadiz, laden with salt, ran foul of a piece of timber, and sprung so serious a leak that the crew took to the boats, and, after forty hours of severe exposure, arrived at Gibraltar with the loss of their clothing. After abandoning it, the brig went down.

WRECK OF A FRENCH VESSEL NEAR BRIGHTON.—A vessel was recently discovered about eight miles from shore, between Brighton and Rottingdean, keel uppermost. The dead body of a youth was discovered on board. The vessel proved to be the *Joyeuse*, laden with flour. It was probably upset in a squall.

LOSS OF SHIPS NEAR GIBRALTAR.—Several vessels have been wrecked near Gibraltar, with loss of life in some of the cases.

OBITUARY.

REAR-ADMIRAL JOSEPH SYMES died a few days since at his residence at Crewkerne, after a short illness, at the age of seventy years. He had served under Nelson at Trafalgar, being at the time midshipman on board the *Tonnant*, and was senior lieutenant of the *Bonne Citoyenne*, Captain Mounsey, at the capture of the French frigate *Furieuse*, in 1809. He had received the naval medal and two clasps for his services afloat. His commissions bore date as follows:—Lieutenant, March 13, 1808; commander, March 13, 1810; Captain, March 21, 1812; and retired rear admiral, Oct. 1, 1846.

THE EARL OF LISTOWEL has expired at Morrison's Hotel, Dublin, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He was a lord-in waiting to the Queen, a deputy lieutenant and magistrate for the county of Cork, and Vice-Admiral of the province of Munster. He is succeeded by his eldest son, who distinguished himself at the battle of the Alma.

THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE expired a few days ago in his 72nd year.

CAPTAIN MAHER, of the Glamorganshire Light Infantry, has been burnt to death in his bedroom. It is supposed that he dropped asleep while undressing, and that the candle fell against the curtains, and set them on fire. A short distance off, lay the dead body of a favourite dog.

THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

[Under this head, we reproduce from week to week the most remarkable of those mysterious advertisements which appear every day at the top of the second column of the *Times* front page. Such materials are worthy of being preserved in some other form.]

N.—NO. Quite out of place.—T. S.

C. B.—Rest quite satisfied that what you have heard is false.—H.

GIRTY.—Do not forget the past. Your husband will always truly and faithfully love you.—C. H. A. S.

MY dear COUSIN, let me caution you against bad associates: there are some, I perceive, who are endeavouring to make you one of their own. Yours sincerely, AGUSTA.—Feb. 4, 1856.

DEAR H. C.—Pray CALL or WRITE. I have returned home. Affairs are in a frightful state.—E. J. C., 6, T.—H.—Feb. 7, 1856.

A. H.—I am indeed pained and shocked, and can hardly believe it possible. WRITE all particulars to your broken-hearted father; also what has become of him, and who are cognisant of it?

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROGRESS OF INSTRUCTION IN ART.—Birkenhead, Basingstoke, Andover, Southampton, Plymouth, Belfast, Cork, and Limerick have established, or re-established, schools of art during the past year, making at the present time a total of sixty-three schools throughout the United Kingdom. At the beginning of this year, Manchester started elementary drawing classes in no fewer than fourteen parochial schools. Each class numbers forty students, and each student pays one penny a-week for the instruction, which is thus wholly self-supporting.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A house near the Finchley-road was burnt down on Saturday night, when two children, who were lying on a sofa-bed, were killed. Their cries attracted attention, but assistance arrived too late.

SACRILEGE.—Three churches in the neighbourhood of Glossop, and one at Newmills, have been entered in the night and plundered. A man and a woman are in custody, and committed for trial, on a charge of being concerned.

A HUSBAND BY LOTTERY.—A young lady, pretty and well educated, residing in the arrondissement of Pithiviers, has conceived the idea of putting herself up to lottery. There are to be three hundred tickets at 1,000f. each, and to the fortunate winner she will give herself and the 299,000f. by way of dowry. The lady has attached some very prudent conditions to the purchase of tickets. She will only sell them to persons whom she may think will suit her, and in order to ascertain that point, she exacts a half-hour's tête-à-tête conversation with each applicant. No limit of age is imposed, but more than one ticket may be taken by one person. The lottery will be drawn on the 25th of November next at the Mairie at Pithiviers. No married men are allowed to take tickets. It is said that a number of Englishmen have already become purchasers, and applications are coming in from all quarters.—*Journal du Loiret.*

THE CAB DISPUTE.—The case, submitted to Mr. Arnold, as to whether a cabman is obliged to carry a child under ten years of age, came on again in the course of the present week; when the magistrate, discovering that there was collusion between the parties, and that the summons was not *bona fide*, dismissed it with a reproof.

MR. R. H. HORNE.—We find it stated in the Australian correspondence of the *Daily News* that "R. H. Horne, the dramatist, and author of 'Orion,' lately in the Gold Commission, is now engaged as chief clerk

to Mr. Michie, the popular barrister, and as dramatic critic to the Melbourne *Herald*." It was not without regret that we read this announcement, which does not speak highly for the prospects of literary men in the southern land. A man of such varied powers might have been expected to make a more brilliant future for himself in a new colony. But we trust he has "not lost all his original brightness."

THE LATE ACCIDENT IN FITZROY-LACE, NEW-ROAD.—The adjourned investigation into the blowing down of a wall and the crushing of houses in Fitzroy-place, New-road, by which a woman lost her life, was resumed on Thursday, and terminated in a verdict of "Accidental Death." It will be recollected that the wall was rendered dangerous by being isolated by a fire; and the foreman and several of the jury said they thought that some step should be taken to make it compulsory for the protection of the public that in such a case people residing in the vicinity should be promptly removed, or that dangerous structures should be secured without delay.

A PENNY THEATRE IN THE EDGWARE-ROAD.—A Mr. Braidley has brought an action in the Court of Exchequer against a Mr. König, for ejection and to regain possession of a house in Grand Junction-terrace, Edgware-road. Messrs Taylor and Houghton had taken a lease of the house, with a special covenant against the premises being applied to the purposes of an exhibition or any other public object which could grow into an annoyance; but they afterwards let the place to Mr. König, with permission to open an exhibition; and he appears to have turned it into a sort of penny theatre of the lowest kind. The audience was usually composed of disreputable boys and girls, who, while waiting for admission, would block up the pavement, and pass away the time by filthy conversation, to the great inconvenience and disgust of the passengers. A verdict was given for Mr. Braidley, the plaintiff; and Mr. Baron Brannwell granted speedy execution.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.—In England and Wales there were 6,166 miles of railway open for traffic on the 30th June last, against 6,112 in 1854. The total number of passengers conveyed by these railroads amounted to 43,286,143, of whom 5,995,139 were first-class, 15,035,768 second-class, 8,123,096 third-class, and 14,122,814 "Parliamentary" passengers, besides 9,325 season ticketholders. The total receipts from horses, carriages, luggage, parcels, and mails amounted to £450,026, and the total receipts from general merchandise, cattle, and minerals to £4,436,914, making a grand total receipt from all sources of traffic of £3,450,394. In Scotland there were 1,051 miles of line open on the 30th of June, 1855. On these lines 5,465,422 passengers were conveyed,—namely, 667,443 first-classers, 833,529 second-classers, 719,200 third-classers, and 3,243,250 Parliamentary. Of season ticketholders there were 1,940. The receipts from horses, carriages, luggage, &c., amounted to £46,859, and the receipts from general merchandise to £625,649. The grand total receipts from all sources amounted to £997,856. In Ireland there were 897 miles of road open on the 30th June. On these railroads travelled 3,063,534 passengers, including 379,223 of the first-class, 1,231,865 of the second-class, 658,702 of the third-class, 791,663 Parliamentary, and 2,125 season ticketholders. The receipts from horses, carriages, luggage, and mails amounted to £45,558, and those from general goods and cattle to £150,301; making a grand total revenue, from all sources of traffic, of £445,698. A comparative summary shows that in the whole of the United Kingdom there were, on the 30th of last June, 8,115 miles of line open for traffic, against 7,803 miles on the 30th of June, 1854; that 51,815,149 passengers were conveyed thereon, against 50,367,404 in 1854; that the receipts from passengers amounted to £4,125,487 (exclusive of extra fares), against £4,081,792 in 1854; and that the receipts from goods and cattle amounted to £5,212,865, against £4,826,825 in 1854. The grand total revenue of all railroads for the half-year was £9,894,049, against £9,424,603 in the corresponding half-year of 1854.

THE RUGELEY POISONING CASE.—The second examination of the body of Mr. Parsons Cook has been concluded. The examination had reference to the state of the spinal cord, which was found quite healthy.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.—A young shopman at Glasgow has been arrested under suspicion of being a deserter from the 82nd regiment of foot. A pensioner, named James M'Kenzie, swore in the most positive manner that he had seen the young man in the uniform of the regiment; but it was conclusively proved that he never was in the army. M'Kenzie has been arrested for perjury.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—949 deaths were registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday, February 2. In the corresponding week of last year, the mortality was 1,604. The difference is 655. The average corrected number of deaths, derived from the mean mortality for the ten corresponding weeks in the preceding ten years, is 1,279; and this number, compared with this week's return, shows a decrease in the latter of 330 deaths. The state of the public

health may, therefore, be considered as remarkably good. Deaths arising from zymotic diseases, of which smallpox, measles, scarlatina, whooping-cough, diarrhoea, and fevers form the principal heads, numbered 228. Typhus shows a tendency to increase, and was fatal to 69 persons. Bronchitis, which was fatal in the previous week in 112 cases, fell to 93. Pneumonia declined from 69 to 50. Phthisis (or consumption) carried off 181 persons; of this number, 111 were between the ages of 15 and 60. Apoplexy and paralysis are returned in 33 cases, and diseases of the heart and blood vessels in 38 cases. Two deaths are registered as having occurred from cholera.—Last week, the births of 880 boys and 846 girls, in all 1,726 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,530. A triple birth (two girls and one boy) is recorded; the mother is the wife of a journeyman baker, residing at 3, Nungate-cottages, Peckham.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.—This return comprises the births and deaths registered by 2,196 registrars in all the districts of England during the autumn quarter that ended on 31st December, 1855, and the marriages in 12,155 churches or chapels, about 3,635 registered places of worship unconnected with the Established Church, and 623 superintendent registrars' offices, in the quarter that ended on 30th September, 1855. The return is on the whole satisfactory. But the marriages were below the average, from various causes. The births were near the usual number; and the mortality was much below the average, both in the towns and in the country. 37,151 marriages were celebrated in the quarter that ended on September 30th, or less by 999 than the numbers in the corresponding quarter of 1854. 74,302 persons were married. The annual rate for the quarter was 783 marriages to 100,000 of the population, the average of the ten preceding and corresponding quarters having been 809. Marriage was somewhat less frequent than it was in the corresponding quarter of 1854, in every county except Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Essex, Wiltshire, Herefordshire, Rutland, York (East and North Riding), Durham, and Northumberland. 148,868 births were registered in the last quarter of the year 1855; or more in number by 2,394 than the births in the corresponding quarter of 1854. The annual rate of births in the quarter was 3,123 per cent. on the population; which is near, but somewhat below; the average (3,142).

FIRE AT CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.—The newly-built hall of this college has been partly destroyed by a fire which broke out there last Saturday evening, supposed to have been caused by the flue of the kitchen chimney not being large enough, in consequence of which a great deal of soot accumulated, and having ignited, heated the bricks in the roof separating the kitchen from the hall to such an extent as to set fire to the floor and wainscoting above. A smell of fire having been perceived about nine o'clock by a gowman, an investigation was made as to the cause, and on entering the hall, dense clouds of smoke were seen coming from the wainscoting over the kitchen flue at the north end. The officials about the college, and others soon assembled in large numbers, and every effort was made to suppress the conflagration, but with very little effect; and it was not until the floor of the hall was pulled up, and a hose of the waterworks Company pumped upon the flames, that the fire was completely extinguished. The exact extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained; but the floor and ornamental work of the hall have been either burnt or injured by the water.

CRIME IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—In answer to the assertions of Dr. Cullen that crime is more frequent in England than in Ireland, a correspondent of the *Times* has entered into some calculations to show that the proportion of criminals and of convicted offences, when compared with the amount of population, is much larger in Ireland. These comparisons are painful; but the blame must rest with those who provoke them by incorrect statements embittered by sectarianism.

THE LIVERPOOL TOWN DUES.—At the monthly meeting on Wednesday of the Liverpool Town Council, Mr. J. A. Pictou called attention to the proposed abolition of town dues without compensation, and moved the following resolution, which after some discussion was carried unanimously:—"That the Mayor be requested to convene a public meeting of the inhabitants of this borough, to be held in St. George's-hall on an early day, to consider the course to be pursued in consequence of the bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Government for the abolition of passing tolls and the regulation of local charges on shipping, or on goods carried in ships, and proposing to abolish such dues without compensation or equivalent to this or any other corporation entitled to such dues—a measure subversive of the rights of property, hitherto held sacred in this country."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, Feb. 9.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

EDUCATION.

EARL GRANVILLE introduced a bill for the appointment of a Vice-President of the Council of Education, who is to be a member of the House of Commons.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

LORD CAMPBELL, referring to the subject, suggested that, instead of referring the matter to a Committee of privileges, an address should be presented to the Crown, praying that the peerage granted to Sir J. Parke should be made hereditary.

The Earl of DERBY said, in the absence of Lord Lyndhurst, he could not undertake to say what course should be followed, but he concurred in the suggestion.

The House adjourned at a quarter to six.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBERS.

LORD RAYNHAM and MR. WARREN took the oaths and their seats for Tamworth and Midhurst respectively.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

In answer to Admiral WALCOTT, Sir C. WOOD said it was intended to confer a medal on the officers and men of the Arctic Expedition as soon as possible. (Hear.)

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

In answer to Lord W. GRAHAM, Mr. F. PEEL said that, in reply to the animadversions made on them in the Report of the Crimean Army Commission, Sir R. Airey and Lord LUCAN were about to make statements in their defence.

THE NAVY IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

Mr. H. J. BAILLIE drew attention to the accounts given in the newspapers with reference to the course pursued by Admiral Stirling and Captain Elliott in the Chinese Seas, and the manner in which they acted with regard to endeavouring to interrupt the Russian squadron in those seas—accounts which indicated a censure on the conduct of those officers in not engaging the enemy's vessels, or blockading their ports. He hoped that account could be contradicted, and he asked whether the Government were satisfied with those officers.

Sir C. WOOD declined to accept the duty of watching statements in newspapers on affairs connected with his office. He went into a detail of the movements of the English squadron and the force of the Russians in the harbour of Amoor. The Admiralty thought the Commodore was quite right in declining to attack with his very small and far inferior force. Everything was done to induce the Russians to come out; but in vain. The explanation of Captain Elliott with reference to the course he took to intercept the hostile squadron, was on the whole sufficient to show that he had acted to the best of his judgment.

Mr. ELLIOTT defended Captain Elliott.

BUNHILL-FIELDS BURIAL GROUND.

In answer to Mr. MIALL, Mr. FITZROY said that any attempt to remove bodies from Bunhill-fields burial ground was illegal, and would be prevented.

ECCLIASTICAL COMMISSION.

In answer to Lord ROBERT CECIL, Sir GEORGE GREY said it was intended to make inquiry into the working of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

Mr. COBDEN said that he had recently asked for copies of any correspondence on the two subjects of our dispute with the United States, in the first place with regard to the convention relating to Central America, the object of which was to promote the construction of a ship canal across the isthmus of Darien. This correspondence had been presented to the Congress of the United States, and yet he was told it was not complete or fit to be produced; besides which, it was published in England as a pamphlet. It ought, therefore, to be before the House. As to the other subject of dispute, the enlistment for our army in America, no correspondence had been published either here or in the United States; but it seemed that we had withdrawn our enlisting establishments, and apologised; but, after that, other transactions of the same kind had been renewed. It was acknowledged that we were in the wrong; but the dispute had assumed rather a personal character. If the correspondence were brought before the House, it would be no dealt with as soon to settle all differences; and the question would be safer in the hands of the House and the country instead of in those of diplomacy and the press.

LORD PALMERSTON said that, as to the question of Central America, the terms of the treaty on that subject were perfectly clear, but the American Government, having put a different construction upon it to that understood by this country, a correspondence ensued, and an offer had been made to refer the matter to arbitration, to which an answer had not yet been received. On reconsideration he was prepared to produce the correspondence as

to the enlistment question: looking to the reaction which had taken place in emigration, it was thought that many persons could be inclined to enlist in the Canadian Colonies from the United States; but strict orders were given not to infringe the laws of America. It was soon found that it was difficult to avoid giving offence to the United States, and orders were sent to discontinue the recruiting. Complaints were soon after made by the American government; and it was replied that their request had been anticipated, and the recruiting already stopped. An ample apology was moreover made. The American minister in this country was satisfied; but the subject was renewed by the American government, and a further correspondence occurred; which, three days before Parliament met, was in such a state that it might and could have been produced; but, the day before the opening of Parliament, a new and voluminous despatch was received from America, to which no answer had yet been given, because the materials for doing so were not yet obtained. Therefore, he thought the correspondence was not in a state to be laid before the House, but the moment it was closed it should be produced. He agreed that no conflict could be more lamentable and calamitous than one between two nations so bound by every tie of amity as England and America. He did not believe that such a collision would take place; and nothing that the Government could do to prevent it would be omitted. (Cheers.)

Sir DE LACY EVANS expressed his satisfaction at the tone and spirit of Lord Palmerston's remarks, and hoped there would be no war with America.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

This Bill was read a second time.

The Partnership Amendment Bill, after a short discussion in which the principle of the measure was fully recognised, was read a second time.

The Joint-Stock Companies Bill was read a second time without discussion.

The Burial of the Dead (Ireland) and the Youthful Offenders' (Ireland) Bill were read a second time.

The House of Commons' Offices Bill passed through committee.

Sir W. CLAY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the Abolition of Church Rates, and Mr. HEADLAM obtained leave to introduce a bill for the Reform of the Medical Profession.

The House adjourned at half-past nine o'clock.

THE CONFERENCES.

The Austrian communication on the subject of the Five Points accepted by Russia was on Thursday, presented to the Diet of Frankfurt, and was referred to the respective committees without discussion.

It is stated that Russia has declared that the participation of Prussia in the Conferences is a special question, entirely independent of the signature of the preliminaries of peace, the solution of which may take place at a later period in the course of the Conferences.

Sardinia is to be represented at the Congress of Paris by Count Cavour and the Marquis Villamarina.—the Marquis d'Azeglio being obliged, on account of ill health, to decline the appointment.

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

A conference has taken place at Copenhagen between the delegates on the Sound Dues. Denmark has made a fresh proposition, asking for thirty-six millions of thalers, to be divided among those interested.

By royal decree, the criminal prosecution decreed against the Minister Scheele by the Holstein Diet is to be brought before the Superior Court of Appeal of that Duchy.

Tranquillity has been re established in Spain. The Government has decided on raising the state of siege of the provinces of Burgos and Aragon. It is thought that this measure will also be applied to Catalonia. A change in the Government has taken place. M. Brull has left the Ministry of Finance, and M. Francisco Santa Cruz has taken the oath in his place.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree promulgating a convention of extradition just concluded between France and Austria.

The *Independence Belge* denies the truth of the report that it had changed hands, and repeats its promise of being the first to inform its readers of any such eventual change, which, it adds significantly, would not interfere with its conduct. The *Observateur Belge* rather pertinently declines to understand how a Belgian journal, in the hands of a Frenchman and a member of the Imperial Legislative Corps, could preserve its independence as to Belgian interests.

DR. VAUGHAN.—The trial of Dr. Vaughan commenced yesterday. He has been acquitted on the first indictment; but will surrender on bail to-day (Saturday) for the trial of the second count.

CAMBRIDGE ELECTION.—The close of the first day's poll gave a majority to Mr. Walpole of 150. The poll will not close till Tuesday next.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whoever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—*DR. ANNOLD.*

THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION AND THE WAR.

THE idea that Prussia has forfeited her European position is a fallacy. Her influence has not lain dormant, nor is it ignored by the other Powers. It has been exerted in accordance with the historical policy of that kingdom, and it is not easy to decide whether Austria or Prussia has played the winning game. There has been an essential difference in the action of those governments; but their object is one. It is the aim of Austria to increase her weight in the general councils of Europe, because this decides her position in Germany. It is the aim of Prussia to secure preponderance in Germany, because this decides her position in Europe.

Prussia is, *de facto*, the representative German Power. Nearly all her territories are purely German; she has many more German subjects than Austria. Austria, with the majority of her population non-Germanic, lies, in great part, outside of Fatherland, beyond the national frontier. Thus, it would be unwise and unnatural in her Emperors to depend, for their influence in Europe, on their German "following" alone. Prussia, on the other hand, which governs more Germans than are contained in the whole of the minor States of the Confederation, knows, that to be paramount in Germany is to be important in Europe.

Following these distinct courses, with one object in view, Austria and Prussia have not deviated from them during the present war. As a consequence of her isolated position, Prussia finds herself, at the approach of the Paris Congress, excluded from the consultations of the belligerent and mediating Powers. Austria, as the result of her participation in affairs external to Germany, gains a leading place at the deliberations; but while her diplomacy is engaged abroad, that of Prussia is active at home, and, we repeat, we are not sure which of the rival powers has approached most nearly the object of this diplomatic competition. Austria is conspicuous in the negotiations; she has gained the confidence of France, and the formal amity of England; she has extended her influence on the Danube, and checked a war which gave Piedmont an influence in Italy, dangerous to an alien power. But she has kept a vast army, during a year and a half, on a war footing; she has mortgaged a large portion of her revenues; her financial weakness is notorious; she has been compelled, by military

necessities, to exhaust still further her impoverished Lombard dominions; her bank schemes and her railway schemes have failed; Prussia has detached from her interest several of the lesser German States.

Prussia, besides increasing her weight in the Frankfort Diet, has profited by an extensive neutral trade. She has availed herself of an elastic revenue to arm the Rhine frontier. Excluded from the Congress of Paris, she knows that, if a peace be signed, her signature will be invited to render it the common act of Europe, when it will be her option to assent or to protest—though it is not probable that the Prussian King would repudiate a treaty accepted by the Russian Emperor. The influence of Prussia, it is true, has operated ambiguously to the Allies; but she had no goodwill to forfeit in France, and England is well aware that half-a-million bayonets in Prussia form a valuable counterpoise to any other half-million within other frontiers.

Some of the organs of opinion in Central Germany deny that Prussia is the representative power of Germany. It is true that she is controlled by wary and vigilant rivals. But the King of Prussia occupies in the Frankfort Assembly a position something like that of a government in the face of a formidable opposition. This opposition, however, is not entirely embodied by the Austrian Emperor. The quasi-liberal Constitutions of some of the minor states are obnoxious to both the leading powers; and, feeble as these states are, in a military sense, they are amenable to the public law of Europe, and can only be attacked insidiously and undermined by slow degrees. Austria and Prussia have a common interest in quenching the little liberty still possessed by the German race; but they are themselves divided, and partly by virtue of their dissensions the remnants of Constitutionalism survive. A peace, concluded at Paris, might modify the relations of the German powers to each other, and to the rest of Europe. The public has been accustomed to believe that Prussia is a neutral nonentity, but her influence has at least been forcible in the sense of peace. Great Britain, in fact, were she disposed to pursue the Russian war, would find herself opposed to an undeclared coalition in Europe. The Continent, represented by its dynasties, is agreed on the necessity of a pacification, partly because it fears that the real invasion of the North might light up a dangerous enthusiasm; partly because, a continued war would chiefly serve the practical interests, and might chiefly promote the naval and military prestige, of England. What does M. DE LABOCHÉJAQUELIN say, in the pamphlet he addresses to the statesmen of Europe generally? That the Russian navy ought not to be destroyed, because it may be useful to France; that the conquests of Russia in Asia ought to be encouraged rather than opposed. Simultaneously, the Austrian press utters identical sentiments, and there are not wanting politicians to interpret these signs as ominous to England. But, when the Russian conflict ceases, virulent as the German press may be, and fiercely as the hybrids of Belgium may bark at the great power to which they owe their half-developed vitality, there are continental interests which preclude the military union of all the Powers, which divide Austria from France—except where they meet in Italy—and which would render it unwise, on the part of England, to court the good-will of Austria to the too great disparagement of Prussia. Unhappily, the nations of Europe are not self-governed; they are the sport of their rulers; too often they identify themselves with dynastic vanities. While this system lasts, and supersedes natural human interests, we must consider the probable relations of

governments, and remember that, when the war has ended, we have no further reason to abate the influence of Prussia. For, after great collisions, the tremor of the political system does not immediately cease. We shall do well, not only to keep our armaments in the highest efficiency, but to regard, with the most farsighted and solicitous discretion, both present and possible alliances.

SIR JOHN McNEILL'S REPORT.

It is a popular opinion that, had not Russia interrupted, by concessions, the progress of the war, the next campaign would have been an unbroken course of victory. Something like disappointment has piqued the public mind, because our gun-boats and our floating-batteries will probably be laid up in ordinary, without testing the "impregnability" of Cronstadt. It is said, and by many believed, that, on a given signal, our army in the Crimea would have defeated the enemy, surpassed the French, and restored the prestige of 1815. Nay, as a man discharges his gun before he hangs it up, there are politicians who, consenting to a treaty with Russia, would seek another war across the Atlantic, or anywhere, so that our preparations might not have been in vain.

Can we be sure, however, that, were 1856 to be a year of warfare, no signal blunders would neutralise our preparations, no signal disasters interfere with our successes? We have a larger army, and a more manageable navy; but have we repented us of our ways, driven "the system" into the Desert of Sin, and invented a new organisation? Great forces mismanaged only aggravate confusion, and the reproach it brings. It is a wholesome reflection to keep in mind, that we *might* have despatched our Baltic fleet, for the third time, without all the essentials of warfare. A real sea campaign would have severely tried the capacities of the Admiralty Board. What guarantees have we that, in the East, our eighty thousand men would have attacked the North side of Sebastopol without a repetition of the Redan disaster; or, that marching upon the interior, their means of transport and supply would not have failed?

Our administrators have brooked down so deplorably, that their own Commissioners expose error after error, not of routine only, but of personal conduct. Sir JOHN McNEILL and Colonel TULLOCH, reviewing the successive misfortunes of the first Crimean winter, attribute none to unavoidable circumstances. The information they collected was the counterpart of that which was collected at Westminster, by the Parliamentary Committee. It would be superfluous to retrace the story;—the sufferings of the army, the unhealthy and scanty diet, the dull bigotry of Peninsular precedent, negligence in London, and negligence at headquarters, the supercilious apathy of individuals, and the unintelligible stupidity of departments, the ruin that followed, and the magnificent self-devotion displayed by officers and men. But two or three of Sir JOHN McNEILL's illustrations are equal to the worst which, in England, were attributed to the versatile malice of "Our own Correspondent." While the scurvy was at its height, nearly twenty thousand pounds weight of lime-juice lay for two months in the Commissariat stores at Balaklava. The Commander-in-Chief had never heard of its arrival. But no one was "responsible." The glorious company of officials stood excused, because there were no "regulations" directing the issue of lime-juice to soldiers "on land." Therefore, the "Inspector-General's" reports were written in vain. The Adjutant-General, in November and December, was warned that the troops

would require lime-juice; but, until February, the lime-juice was left untouched in store.

Another fatal "regulation" is that which prescribes that a soldier is entitled to fuel when in barrack, but that in the field he must supply himself. On the bleak and treeless plateau before Sebastopol he was left to cut wood for his own use; and, there being no wood to cut, he had none to burn. Lord RAGLAN disdained the miserable technicalities of the Commissariat, and ordered it to prepare a sufficiency of fuel, which it did—and issued the first supply in less than a month. Sir JOHN MCNEILL points out, as the capital defect of the "system," that no one functionary is specially responsible for the adaptation of the resources to the wants of the army.

It would be to little purpose to multiply, from this report, illustrations of defective organisation or of administrative imbecility. The evils, so far as they were fortuitous, have been remedied; some of the defects in the machinery of departments have been supplied. But the point of the highest importance is, whether, in the event of a peace, Great Britain can depend on her army and navy. Brave soldiers and sailors she has always had; but, in any future war, must we pass through two years of danger and suffering—must we sacrifice an army, and incur the loss of prestige, before we can be said to be really in a state of preparation? The probable settlement with Russia will not, let us be assured, relieve us from the necessity of preserving the most perfect equipment of military and naval power. The desire of all intelligent men is, that we may remain on terms of the most cordial amity with our Allies; the basis of a real alliance is *equality*. Our commercial and industrial prosperity may excite the admiration of the world; they excite also the jealousies of rival nations. Our traditions are splendid, they are not means of defence. To be respected, we must be powerful; and to be powerful, our resources must be organised, tried, trained, regular in every detail, from the appointment to the highest commands to the administration of the most humble necessities of the soldier's life. Sir JOHN MCNEILL tells us that the Crimean army, in spite of neglect, privation, and misery, "never abated its confidence in itself, and never descended from its acknowledged military pre-eminence." But the army knows, and the world knows, that during forty years of peace, Great Britain neglected her military and naval affairs. We have seen the results. We have been exposed to the contempt of our enemies and allies; we may not yet comprehend all the evil effects of our Crimean failures. We have yet to learn how they may influence our position in Europe, and our political alliances. And, we ask, what will be the result? what nation will fear our enmity, or value our alliance, if, at the Peace, we relapse into routine, and allow the governing classes to do as they have done by us for nearly half a century?

NO "ORDER!"—NO "MERIT!"

If the man at this moment most powerful in this country knew his own power, what influence he might exercise—what a name he might leave on his tomb! If Lord PALMERSTON could carry out the happy impulse which made him exclaim, "I'll be your leader," how he might shame the scoffers, and be the idol of the English people. Alas! the impulse died away. Or Lord PALMERSTON has other views. Or petty motives interpose. Or the power of routine is stronger than the man. Whatever the cause, certain it is that our responsible rulers are more anxious about their own responsibility than confiding in the people; and the noble, patient, generous people, which never fails to answer to a generous appeal, is but half

trusted. That race which has excelled all others in fidelity to its leaders, is studiously kept out of political power as long and as much as possible. It is commonly said that the Great Charter and the Bill of Rights conferred certain liberties on the English people: not at all. Those statutes were only treaties of peace, in which the contending parties did but agree not to fight any more about liberties which had been denied, but which the people had taken. The justice of a further Reform Bill, giving a large extension of the suffrage, has been recognised by Lord PALMERSTON'S OWN colleagues, measures to concede the people's right have been introduced with his sanction; but now he and his colleagues are sedulously feeding public attention with "practical" measures—that is, unpolitical measures—in order to divert popular attention from the political rights which have been so conspicuously acknowledged, and *deferred*. The practical improvements are very good; but why treat political justice as incompatible with social justice? Why must limited liability in partnership precede the partnership of the people in the franchise, which mocks them with representation? Why must the abolition of passing tolls on shipping exclude from sight the abolition of unjust and unconstitutional exclusions from the franchise? Why must policemen be prohibited from voting at elections before the freemen of this country regain the right inherent in every British freeman? Is it that our rulers desire to enforce the lesson, that Englishmen shall have no freedoms, save those acquired in one way—save those which the people take?

The war and the foreign alliances have afforded some opportunities for casting off anti-popular restrictions; but our ruling class will not cast off anything until it is compelled. Many English subjects have attained considerable honours as exhibitors at the great Paris Exposition, and the decoration of the Legion of Honour is conferred upon them. But they are told that they must not wear it without the leave of the Sovereign, and that leave will not be given to civilians! Why? "Oh, because it is the rule!" Is this stupidity—that the most powerful statesmen of our day cannot trample under foot the rules created by their predecessors? Or is it that "civilians" below a certain grade are despised? It looks like pride and stupidity both. But where is our "leader"? He, at least, ought to know how grossly impolitic is this slight upon the Emperor, our ally—how galling to the picked men of our "civilian" classes. Perhaps it may teach our people that there is among the governing classes no real respect for any order of men that do not wear the sword.

A new "order of merit" was to be founded, and we have the "VICTORIA Cross," given "for valour." It is good, so far as it goes—and it rather severely rebukes those sages who thought valour an obsolete virtue. But what an opportunity was there for doing something more than invent a new decoration! It was just the time to invent a new order of chivalry. The old "knighthood" has been destroyed by those who knighted a Sir WILLIAM for biscuit baking, a Sir GEORGE for fiddling decently, a Sir JOHN for encouraging missions and tract selling, a Sir LUCIUS O'SHAUGHNESSY for vending good usquebaugh,—knights created for any virtue but those of chivalry. Those who claim to be connected with the last knight banneret—knight created on the field of battle—must go back many generations. The Order of the Garter has become a "vacant ribbon," conferred on nobles who are pliant to the court; "the Bath" is reserved for the upper ranks, while the C.B., which is the badge of companionship, is but an alpha-

betical distinction depreciated by its indiscriminate distribution to a tribe of pushing middle-class projectors. Order of Chivalry there is literally none now existing.

Such an institution might have been revived. Its very soul consists of the chivalrous virtues, courage, loyalty, and generous devotion. But its body consists in the fellowship. The Sovereign is about to confer a badge for one of the chivalrous virtues, courage; but the other virtues are unbadged, and the new chivalry has no body, for it is unincorporated. The General will vie with the common soldier in seeking the cross for the most brave; but when both have obtained, and they are marked out as equals, there is no brotherhood. The General will still stalk by the humble Johnny who salutes his superior; the man of rank not *daring* to grasp his fellow-badgeman by the hand. Is it that the "private" hero would be presuming on the fellowship? We all know better: we see well that the very summons to sit in chapter of the order with his chief would fill the humble soldier with a sense of humility, of his own deficiencies, and of the inequality in *other* things, as powerful as his pride in the common badge for a common virtue. We know too that the conflict of humility and pride would engender the strongest motives to win a higher status by acquiring the qualifications; and that the brother of the order would stand pledged to be a gentleman—an example to his own rank of obedience, loyalty, and high feeling. But what of that? Admirable as such a lesson might be, the General *dares* not be the instructor. We know not why he dares not, unless it be from the consciousness that vulgar pride has taken the place of genuine knightly devotion. And the statesman who might "be our leader" here, is not at his post.

TRAINING FOR SOLDIERS.

SUPPOSE peace comes of the Paris negotiations, what then? Does it follow that we are to care no more for matters connected with the army? We should rather think that the reverse would follow. The lesson—the one great lesson taught to England by the war is: do not neglect your power by land and sea. Maintain an efficient army, an efficient fleet; and having this in view, we do not propose to abruptly cease the limited attention our space permits us to devote to subjects vitally touching the great question of the reorganisation of the army.

We have, in previous articles, attempted to show that the term soldier need not be the synonym of sot or brigand, and we have endeavoured to inculcate the doctrine that the foundations of our armies should be deeply laid in the institutions of our country, so that the manhood of the nation may be always ready to resist a foreign foe, and ready likewise to defend society against any faction. We have shown what a noble educational field is open to the ruling powers by the embodiment of the Militia, and how the camp may be made a school far more efficacious than the prison, the adult reformatory, or the Mechanics' Institute. But our last remarks applied only to the Militia; what we are about to say applies to the privates and non-commissioned officers of the regular army.

Why should not the regular army be regarded as the finest educational institution in the country? Why should not the discipline be calculated, not only to make men expert shots, able fighters, steady and prompt in evolution, firm as a rock in the tempest of battle, superb, unconquerable in physical strife, what, in fact, our best regiments now are, but equally firm in the moral tempests of civil life and battle; adroit, self-helping, the *élite* of their

class; not only the noblest fighters, but the noblest men. It is far too low, too wasteful a view of an army to look upon common soldiers as "food for powder"—the fashion of fifty, say five years ago. It is bad economy, it is bad philosophy, it is bad policy. A Government which is entrusted with the privilege of raising and wielding a standing army is in the position of the servant to whom much was given and of whom much was required. Such a Government is in utter possession, so far as one set of human beings can be in possession of others, of the souls and bodies of say nearly a quarter of a million of men; and such a Government seriously mistakes or neglects its duty towards those men and towards the nation tolerating their rule, if they do not consider them, at all times, as talents entrusted to their keeping, and therefore not to be kept wrapt up in a napkin; in other words, not merely to be physically drilled, but morally and intellectually disciplined and ennobled. No schoolmaster has such an opportunity; no university; no prison even. Adequate care, adequate system, wise, generous, manly, would make of each regiment, not a band of scholars certainly—we do not want scholars, but of men and soldiers.

We lay great stress upon the moral as well as the physical discipline. A soldier should have a spiritual life of a higher kind than he has been accustomed to. He should obey orders, not from fear, but an intelligent sense of duty; he should be trained to habits of sobriety, not from apprehension of the cat, or the black hole, but from dread of doing wrong. He should be imbued, quite as much as his officers, with a spirit of honour, and a fear of doing dishonourable actions; and he should be taught to love excellence in everything. Not "that will do," but "nothing except that will do," should be his motto. He should be taught to help himself; to be equal to the situation if left alone; to be able to act intelligently and promptly, if thrown on his own resources; but he should be also taught that "self-renunciation" with which, as Goethe says, "life begins;" that idea of comradeship and duty, which alone ennoble the life of the richest and the poorest, and makes the most ignorant in his sphere equal to the highest.

And in his more purely military education, he should live as in his moral life—always as if he were in the presence of the enemy. Depend upon it, you will never have perfect soldiers until you have men taught to consider themselves as always in the very face of death. They should be drilled with that kept in view. No absurd, no squeamish delicacy should prevent proper exercises. At the risk of life men should be taught to run, to leap, to endure heat and cold, to wrestle, to take long marches, to camp out sometimes and feed themselves, to be left in uncertainty as to the morrow; in short, to undergo as far as possible the severest trials, in order that they might be equal to any situation. They should go through a regular probationary course; good conduct badges should be looked on as the inferior steps in an order of military chivalry, and each step upward should confer additional honour, as well as additional power and means. Every man in the ranks should be looked upon and taught to look upon himself as one who may become a gentleman; and every man who bears the QUEEN'S commission should, *ipso facto*, become entitled to all the privileges of a gentleman in society. The way to make an invincible fighting machine, is to make a machine composed of gentlemen in soul and aspirations, animated by the highest principles of action which you can draw out of man.

In short, you must take this fact as the basis of your training, that though a soldier is not

the highest, yet that he is very high in the scale of workers—rightly used, he is the purifier of the world, the judge of the most tremendous causes—and that the calling of common soldier is, in due proportion, as noble as the calling of officer; in short, you must make men strong, self-helping, and self-respectful; and you must rectify the excess of self, by drawing forth the spirit of companionship, the community of life and death, and its noble sacrifices will be sure to follow. The best army will be that composed of the best and noblest men.

If this be so, how much depends on the officers we select! But that is a topic for a separate paper.

HOW TO GET RID OF A WIFE.

TRUTH is stranger than fiction, not only by deceiving ordinary expectation and thus departing more from verisimilitude than fiction safely can, but by producing events which, save for their occurrence, we might declare to be impossible. If a writer of fiction were to invent a tale, in which a husband could concoct a conspiracy with his own servants to defame his wife; should carry on his plans in open day, and with a transparent failure in his testimony; yet should succeed with the concurrence of a court of justice and the testimony of the impugned woman herself, critics would laugh at the "arbitrary" incidents. And yet we have before us a grave statement, purporting to be a simple relation of facts,* which gives us this ultra-romantic romance with strong corroboration. We have already alluded to this case: it comes before us again, justice still unrendered; and the story is told with new and damning facts.

Mr. and Mrs. TALBOT were married in January, 1845. They had one child—a daughter born in October, "The child of the mother's unbounded affection," remarked the judge of the Consistory Court. In 1851 Mr. TALBOT inherited from an uncle considerable estates in Roscommon, which were entailed on the male descent. When Mr. TALBOT discovered the arrangement of the will, he expressed dissatisfaction at having no son; and from that time, it is remarked, he treated his wife "with indifference, coldness, and unkindness." Although he had considerable property, and his wife appears to have been a careful woman, anxious to see her household in order, he left her exceedingly short of money; so much so, that she was compelled at times to borrow sums as small as 3s. 6d. from her own servants, and to repay them in small instalments—fourpenny pieces taken from her child, or postage-stamps. No charge was made against the lady until May, 1852, seven years after marriage; and then she was accused of criminal familiarity with a groom. In all respects this accusation was improbable. Mrs. TALBOT appears to have been a woman with little force of character, devoted to her domestic duties, in fear of her husband, constantly accompanied by her daughter, and without motive or impulse of any kind which could have led to such a position. There were circumstances which rendered her relation with the groom almost impossible. The witnesses brought to sustain the case in court, for it was carried into the Consistory Court, and thence into the Court of Delegates,—swore to proceedings which were in their nature absolutely impossible: such as describing a man to have passed through a small square hole in a wall, without assistance, at a height considerably above his own head. Some of the witnesses asserted that the lady was in the

habit of visiting the groom's bedroom, and of leaving her daughter in another room, going back to the child subsequently. It appears to have been true that Mrs. TALBOT did visit that room, in succession with all the rooms in the house, "to see that things were neat and tidy," as she said. Specifically, however, some of the witnesses concentrated on a particular day—the 19th of May; when they agreed that Mrs. TALBOT was locked in the room with the man-servant—"somebody," she afterwards remarked, "had turned the key;" and this seems highly probable. But it was established beyond doubt, and before the court, that on that day the child, instead of having been left behind, was with her mother the whole time. The witnesses brought to establish the charge were, the servants of the house, and two clergymen to whom the lady was said to have confessed. The servants disagreed with each other. Two amongst them, who spoke most distinctly, were named HALLORAN the butler, and FINNERTY. One of the witnesses called for the prosecution distinctly said that these two men "tried to induce her to swear false against Mrs. TALBOT." The two clergymen who were brought forward as witnesses to show that she had confessed, were the Rev. Mr. McCLELLAND, the rector of Mount Talbot, and the Rev. Mr. GAGE. But when in court, Mr. GAGE denied that the lady had confessed; on the contrary, when the charge was mentioned to her, "she shuddered back" from it. The other clergyman was not so distinct; and the relatives of the lady have since collected, and have published, testimony which they declare themselves prepared to affirm on oath, stating circumstances that in many respects invalidate Mr. McCLELLAND's account. He had declared that the servants at Mount Talbot were a "bad set:" this he denied in court. He had expressed a hope that he should not be called as a witness in the case, because he was under pecuniary obligations to Mr. TALBOT. To a brother-in-law of Mrs. TALBOT he described her, the night after the charge was made, as crouching down in a corner of her room, with every sign of terror: he gave a totally different description in court. Yet, on the other hand he did not stand by the averment that she had confessed—which most certainly she did, then or afterwards.

As soon as the charge was made, the husband took a course which is unparalleled in modern times. He placed the lady in charge of two men servants—who were appointed to be watchmen over her during the night. One of them was HALLORAN, the butler, who had been discharged from a great number of places for drunkenness. He appears to have been in a state of intoxication that night; and to have treated the terrified lady with a rough familiarity, as if he were bent upon substantiating the offence with which she was charged. On the next day Mr. TALBOT was informed of this conduct on the part of his butler; but the man was not discharged; on the contrary, he afterwards received an advance of wages, and when he came up to Dublin, as a witness, his expenses were paid.

The terrified wife entreated that she might be sent to her father; begged that one of her sisters might come to her; or that an old family servant might meet her in Dublin. Instead, she was taken in charge of Mr. McCLELLAND, to Coffey's Hotel, in Dublin; thence to lodgings at Battigar; and thence again to a species of private asylum at Clewer, near Windsor, where she remained in charge of a lady, who passed by a feigned name, until the wife was rescued by her family in November, 1852. By this time, on more than one occasion, she had confessed. She seems to have presumed that what so many people as-

* A letter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on the judgment of the High Court of Delegates, in the case of Talbot v. Talbot. By Thomas Tertius Paget, Esq., Ridgway, 1856. [We noticed the subject in the *Leader* for July 21, 1855.]

serted must be true. But her confessions are mingled with incoherent remarks that "it was all confusion," with calls for her child, and with touching exclamations about her husband's hardness:—"Oh! that he should have believed that man [HALLORAN] before me!" "I think he was determined to believe it!" "He said he would have a divorce, and I felt turned to stone."

It seems nearly impossible that a court of justice could have pronounced a judgment for the divorce; yet such was the fact. Many statements of the witnesses were rejected, as being impossible in their nature, or inconsistent with other parts of their depositions; but yet those falsely-stating witnesses were supposed to be correct. Though how the court discriminated between the credible and the incredible parts, we can scarcely understand. Much stress, however, was laid upon the evidence of Mr. McCLELLAND, who was described in the judgment as having stated that Mrs. TALBOT "had made an acknowledgment of her transgression." Now, it is very curious that in the *pleadings* which set forth the evidence which the witness was prepared to give in court, before he did so, were these words:—"Mrs. TALBOT then admitted and confessed (to the clergyman), that she had been guilty of adultery with the said WILLIAM MULLANE." But when he was under examination in court, Mr. McCLELLAND made a statement totally different:—"She appeared much confused, but on that occasion neither admitted nor denied her guilty intercourse with the said WILLIAM MULLANE." The court, however, appears literally to have taken up the *pleadings* in mistake for the evidence, and to have given judgment on the case as stated by counsel for the prosecution, in lieu of testimony from the witnesses. At the date mentioned by Mr. McCLELLAND, the poor lady had not yet been terrified long enough to have had the belief of her own guilt hardened into her mind as it has since been. The Ecclesiastical Courts, however, have pronounced their judgment; the accusation is thus technically confirmed, and the wedded pair are divorced. This divorce is not sufficient to free the husband so that he can marry again, with the chance of a male succession to his property. To that end he would have to go before the House of Lords. But, although the divorce was definitively pronounced in 1852, Mr. TALBOT has taken no further proceedings.

We have not even yet stated all the details of this case; they will be found in the pamphlets by Mr. PAGET and his brother Mr. JOHN PAGET; we have only stated enough to show the general character of the story as it is there related. It looks like a transparent fiction; yet it is not simply invented upon paper, but is done in fact, and worked out upon flesh and blood. It looks like an experiment in the mode of obtaining divorce, under which an innocent lady is driven wild with terror, and left in a state of settled insanity. If a writer of fiction were to represent such a state of things in the United Kingdom at this day, his readers would laugh at the extravagance; yet here it is asserted on strong testimony of real life.

MISS GREAVES'S CASE.

WITHOUT a jest, it is melancholy to see the perils which our civilisation creates, as fast as it removes others. If a man is no longer liable to be stopped on Hounslow-heath, he may be stopped in the Bayswater-road, within range of gas, metropolitan police, and the most improved laws for the suppression of crime; or he may be hustled in the most beaten thoroughfares of London, and robbed of valuables, within hail of the constable. Yet these are not the worst, any more than they are the only

artificially-created perils. If a speculator in insurance menaces the life of those immediately around him, many more lives are gradually undermined by ordinary adulterations of trade, and he who trusts to wares disguised by poisonous drugs to heighten their tints, is the exception rather than the rule—a bold tradesman. But the adulteration goes to the very administration of the shop. In one of the largest highways of London, new manners and customs have come in force with the progress of the age. It is the practice to exhibit wares in the window, say beautiful collars or tasteful handkerchiefs, at fabulously low prices; but woe be to the passenger who seeks to purchase the tempting article. If it is a woman, and she is specially invited by the very figures embroidered on the handkerchief to enter the shop, she becomes the victim either of a delusion which sends her away with some common ware in lieu of that exhibited in the window, or if she be strong-minded, and insists upon the bargain offered by the eloquence of the ticket, she is bullied for her pains, and is glad to escape. But it may be that the lady seeks to make her purchase in a shop of larger pretensions, and that she has no foregone intent of driving a hard bargain. Yet even in the midst of a well-conducted establishment, surrounded by all that clothes the most refined civilisation, and by those that wear the costume of that civilisation, she is still liable to indignity, terror, and disgrace.

The story has been told within the last few days. It came out before a court of law. Miss ELIZA GREAVES is the daughter of an English officer, whose present employment as an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, shows that he must be a man of more than ordinary capacity and repute. She is herself employed under a milliner, as one of her sisters is—facts which show that the family have a true sense of dignity in striving to secure an independence by honest industry. The young lady's manners show her birth and training, for they are those of a lady. Here, then, is a young lady, whose perfectly inoffensive manners, whose helplessness, and we may add, whose countenance, might claim a protecting solicitude. She enters a shop for the most legal of all purposes;—to buy some of the goods sold there; she pays for what she buys in the proper coin of the country; but presently the cashier brings a policeman and arrests her in the middle of the shop, on a charge of uttering base coin. Let us for a moment recal the position of the young lady, alone, subjected to an ignominious charge, and threatened with being carried off to prison by the hand that drags to the same place the profligate and the felon. She pleads that she was unaware of the badness of the money,—a fact which she did not deny, although she might have done so,—and begs to be spared a public arrest. Instead, however, of receiving indulgence, she is seized, detained at the door of the shop for some time, and then led through the streets by the policeman to the station-house. Late at night the young lady was released on bail, and before that time, the goodness of the coin appears to have been completely established. It had been accidentally touched with quicksilver, which disguised it, and this constituted the excuse put forward in an apology published by the proprietors of the shop.

We cannot see the force of the excuse. It is pleaded in extenuation that bad money had been so frequently received as to render an example necessary. But what grounds were there for selecting that blameless young lady as an example? She had done no wrong. Even if the money had been bad, there was no evidence whatever to prove a guilty knowledge; but there was on the other hand every

reason for "giving the prisoner the benefit of a doubt." One might have expected that any man seeing a girl thus charged, and then placed, would have conjured up to himself the supposition of her innocence, would have asked himself what she must endure blamelessly if the charge were unfounded, and would have preferred rather to let thousands of false half-crowns enter the till unchallenged, than that such wrong should be done. When an action for false imprisonment was brought, the trespassers paid into court £10 as sufficient damages; the court inflicted twice that sum; the public certainly has not expressed any opinion that it is too much. But we doubt whether the real penalty will not greatly exceed the money fine.

Was there no rescue? How is it that no man interfered for the protection of one whose very appearance might have claimed succour? It is because, at the present day, those who stand manifestly in possession of property, and who appeal to the policeman, are customarily presumed to be in the right. We are placing justice in the condition of routine; we do not trust to feeling, unless it be stamped by some authority; and, while we boast of the order that we have introduced, we suffer a larger amount of wrong to be committed, and complacently surveyed, than would have been tolerated in rougher days.

It is not always that cases are so clear as this has been. Supposing the money had been bad, the real acts of the young lady would not have been different; yet how different her position! How ready complacent society to look on and doubt whether there was not "something in it!"

Those who suspect cannot complain if suspicion be retorted. We live in days that begot doubt. People who ride in omnibuses complain that they are frequently exposed to accusations by the conductor, of endeavouring to pass false coin, foreign money, or other uncurrent tokens; and amongst this multitudinous class of accused has been engendered a suspicion that the keen conductor, who has inadvertently taken some uncurrent coin, seizes the opportunity for palming it off upon a passenger, under pretence of returning what he has just received.

THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

BY ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A.

PART III.

It may not be out of place to describe more particularly the following associations excepted from the operations of the Registration Act:—

I. *Benefit Building Societies*, established under the act 6 and 7 Willm. IV., cap. 32. These associations are empowered to apply their funds to the purchase or erection of a dwelling house, or dwelling houses, or other real or leasehold estate; the capital being raised in shares not exceeding £150 each, and by payments of not more than 20s. per month. The members also enjoy certain exemptions from stamp duties in the mortgages granted to the societies, and from the necessity of reconveyance upon a redemption of property purchased through their instrumentality.

Freehold Land Societies must also be mentioned which are constituted under the Building Societies Act, wherein the members have allotted to them parcels of Freehold Land sufficient to give the possessor a vote.

II. *Mining Associations*, worked on the Cost Book principle, which have been thus ably defined:—

"A great source of the ignorance and uncertainty as to the true nature of the Cost Book principle has arisen from the many different names by which it has been from time to time called. Thus Cornish Mining Associations on the above principle were, before the statute 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 110 (which exactly defined Joint-stock Companies), sometimes seen by the law reporters erroneously called Joint-stock Companies (Hawken v. Bourne, S. M. and W. 703), Act: after that statute the reporters gave to them the name of *Script Companies*. At a later period, however, whilst the adoption of the Cost Book principle was supposed to be legally confined to Cornwall, it was called the *Cost Book Custom*; a most erroneous appellation, and one which has tended not a little to the maintenance of

our inconvenient error, which is now, however, happily passing away. Subsequently it was designated a system; and so a particular Company was said to be "conducted on the Cost Book system." But within the last year or so our subject has received the appellation of the *Cost Book principle*, which last word, although not, perhaps, more etymologically correct than the word "system," yet has the advantage of being the word adopted by the statute 7 and 8 Vict., c. 110, s. 63, and 12 and 13 Vict., c. 108, s. 1, and, accordingly, also by the judges both at law and equity, and particularly by Wood in the late case of *Arundell v. Atwell*, E. T. 1853.

Many attempts have, at various times, been made to define the Cost Book principle Act, mostly without success. The causes of failure, beside those consequent on the difficulty, nay, impossibility of defining that which is but imperfectly understood, being traceable to an ignorance of the admitted characteristics of the principle, or the introduction into the definition of mere quantities, properties or accidents. The best consideration of the writer as to the logical definition of the Cost Book principle is, "That the Cost Book principle is a partnership, the conditions of which are contained in a Cost Book."

The above definition, though a strictly logical one, does not however convey a section of its subject sufficiently specific for practical purposes. It is necessary, therefore, to give a description of it which is, "That the Cost Book principle is a voluntary commercial usage in the nature of an ordinary common-law partnership applicable to the working of mines by an association of adventurers." Its five essential characteristics being:—

1st. That the management of the mine is under the immediate control and direction of the whole body of adventurers or their specially appointed deputy.

2ndly. That the powers and obligations of each adventurer are exactly commensurate with the quantum of his interest in the association which is voted by majority, or, in the words of Pryce, that the determinations of the adventurers which are settled not by voices, but shares, are conclusive for the whole body.

3rdly. That all the transactions of the association be for cash, except where a necessity, arising from circumstances or usage, otherwise requires.

4thly. That the accounts of the association be paid, calls made, and dividends declared at short intervals, usually bi-monthly.

5thly, and lastly. That a perfect register of the adventurers be kept in a way that the fact who are adventurers may not only be known by that register, but may be proved by the handwriting of the adventurer, or by document, in the possession of the association (T. Tapping).*

III. *Loan Societies* may be formed under the act 3 and 4 Vict., c. 110, for making loans to the industrial classes which are repaid by instalments. It is requisite that the rules should be certified and enrolled by the barrister appointed to certify the rules of savings banks. The property of the society to be vested in trustees, and debentures may be issued for the sums deposited, without liability to stamp duty; and the trustees are not personally liable for signing the debentures unless specially undertaken. Sums deposited with loan societies not exceeding £50, are payable by the society within twelve calendar months without probate to the representatives of any deceased debenture holder, and the treasurer is required to give security. The Society not to lend to any person, at the same time, more than £15, and no second loan to be made until the first is paid off. No note or security is liable to stamp, but the securities are not transferable by endorsement or otherwise. Loans are recoverable by the clerk or treasurer of the society in the county court. A fee of 1s. 6d. may be received, on the society proceeding to make inquiries as to the character of an applicant for loan, and as to his sureties. Discount, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, may be deducted on all advances, and the principal sum must be paid conformably to the rules. Clerks and others overcharging are liable to penalties of usury. Instalments must not be paid in advance, nor can loans be balloted for.

IV. *Industrial Provident Partnership Societies* may be established under the act 15 and 16 Vict., c. 31 (as amended by 17 Vict., c. 25), the preamble of which recites the objects which may be carried out under the Friendly Societies Act, 13 and 14 Vict., c. 115, and by the 7th section, it is provided that the laws relating to Friendly Societies may be applicable to societies established under the act, except as varied thereby or certified to be inapplicable; but that the 7 and 8 Vict., chap. 110 (the Joint-stock Registration Act), shall not extend to societies constituted under this act.

The following sections of the act point out the chief characteristics of these societies, the objects to be effected, and the principal privileges and liabilities of the members: sections I, II, III, IV, IX, and XI

of the act 15 and 16 Vict., cap. 31; recounted in Tidd Pratt's book, pp. 106 to 110, and pages 111 and 113.

(To be continued.)

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINION, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MURON

THE LAWS OF PROPERTY AS THEY RELATE TO WOMEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR.—It were not a difficult thing to compile from the daily papers a series of instances in which women have been defrauded of their earnings, and subjected to various forms of maltreatment; neither, did the question relate to any class of men whatever, from the younger sons of the nobility to the negro slaves in the United States, would there be impediments to obtaining a fair hearing from the more educated part of the English nation. In the last seventy years a certain sense of democratic right has pervaded society; many great battles have been won, and remnant by remnant, feudalism is doomed. The arguments which have sufficed to overthrow one fallacy can be brought up again, slightly modified, according to circumstances, as artillery in a new siege. Catholics are emancipated, presgangs abolished, representation extended, and all under the gradually-growing belief in the equality of men before God and Nature. This idea, which is to modern times as the very air we breathe, circulates everywhere; it embraces all our literature, from the newspaper article to the shilling novel; the most bigoted Conservative dare not gainsay it in plain words; the Puseyite enforces his own religious reading of the same truth, in gathering the flock together under "one baptism;" science seems the Slave of the Lamp to the people, creating Crystal Palaces, Parliamentary trains, photographs, cheap literature, daily papers, costing but a penny; multiplying the resources of the million at every turn; placing the costly luxuries of other days within the reach of all but the very poorest. If we wish to build a place of delight and instruction for the masses, behold! the materials lie on every side ready to our hand; if we wish to write against some oppression, we have but to fall back upon Cobbett and Brougham, to ransack some dead weight of political economy, to illustrate our argument with copious extracts from Roman history, or the story of the golden days of Pericles; and then, inch by inch, the siege is surely gained: aye, surely as against a given wall a given cannonade will avail. It is a "rule of three" sum: as the greatness of the abuse is to the best interests of mankind, so, in proportion to the effectiveness of the statement, will be the length of time required for its abolition. And the broad sense of mankind in general is the slate on which this problem is to be worked.

But whenever the interests of women are concerned we have to face a new and most formidable element—mysticism. The truth is that women are not regarded as human creatures; exactly. Some think them inferior; some of an order of beings above the average of humanity proper; a third species of man is in his heart afraid of them, as somewhat "uncanny." Such a writer as Thackeray by no means lessens this confusion of ideas, for his favourite heroines are of the angelic kind, fitted, as he says, to bless and ennoble "us poor men;" while his Becky Sharp is a cross between a cat and a devil.

The Goths thought women inspired, and treated them as priestesses; the Mahometans make them the slaves of physical pleasure; modern thought hovers between these two extremes, or rather, has compounded a theory of its own, with two faces, reversible at pleasure, and behind either of which the legislator can make a valiant defence against innovation. Sometimes he says that women are of a lower and weaker nature, and must be taken care of; that pecuniary power is not to be trusted in their hands; that they fall naturally under the protection of men, and must of necessity abide by the degree of civilisation the male sex may happen to possess. Sometimes he says that their sphere is essentially apart from the rough work-a-day life—in the home of the affections, in the care of the young, in the bringing to bear of a strong moral influence. Mr. Thackeray makes this to partly consist in the perusal of the Bible all night, amidst tears and mutual embraces of each other. To make this view of the female nature thoroughly consistent, women ought to be able to live upon the moral affections, to the exclusion of the meat and drink which doth not satisfy the soul.

Nothing is so difficult to grasp and analyse as any form of mysticism; it is easier to catch and tame a tiger than a ghost. Take men and guns enough and

you have your wild beast, sooner or later; but your spirit, white, black, or grey, dressed in a winding-sheet, radiant like a will-o'-the-wisp, leads you dancing hither and thither, laughs at your lustiest blows, and, when you think you have him, whisks through the key-hole! Nobody knows this better than the *Leader*—that sturdy soldier of Positivism, which keeps up a current warfare against every floating mysticism it deems pernicious.

We well know, and humbly admit, that the range of mystery in our human life is large—that it must be allowed for on every side; but this much also must be insisted upon, namely, that in open warfare its limits must be clearly defined, and that, when any subject is brought up as matter for newspaper discussion and legislation, it is incumbent on writers and speakers to clear away, beforehand, this poetical element, and to prove that their topic is one which really does belong to this world's open daylight—that it comes under the power of logic, and is able to give and take a fair-handed blow.

We take what might be termed the Unitarian view of the female sex—deeming it

"Not too bright or good
For human nature's daily food;"

believing that whatever differences of proportion may exist between the two sexes, there is none of essence—that the famous distinction between the intuitive and the reasoning powers is as well exemplified in the difference between the poet and the mathematician as in that between the man and the woman; that since women have bodies to be clothed, and mouths to be fed—and since they, moreover, possess the capacity of learning several languages, and are not utterly impervious to the weightier matters of history and philosophy—since they feel hunger and cold, pain and pleasure—since they are numerically more than half the population of this country, and since we do literally and figuratively meet them at every turn—since, finally, we cannot, if we would, get rid of them, either by emigration, or the "pressure of the means of subsistence," it would be quite as well to accept the hopeless fact of their existence, and to arrange that when they have earned money by the labour of their own hands, or the sweat of the brow, they shall be treated like any other class of her Majesty's subjects, and be allowed the simple right of—keeping it.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

B.

DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE RIVER PLATE.—We understand that it is resolved by France and England to despatch two special commissioners immediately to the River Plate, with a view to concert measures with Brazil for the prevention in future of occurrences such as have recently again rendered some of the finest portions of the east coast of South America a prey to revolutionary licence.—*Liverpool Albion*.

MR. W. HOLMAN HUNT.—We are glad to hear of the safe return to England, from his Eastern wanderings, of Mr. W. Holman Hunt, better known to the world of art as one of the leaders of the young pre-Raphaelite school, and the painter of "the Light of the World." Mr. Holman Hunt has, we hear, encountered a variety of strange adventures and perils in the course of his desultory wanderings in Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Land, and has enriched his portfolio with sketches of Oriental life often taken at the risk of the artist's life. All these pictures and sketches are now on their voyage to England; and among others a sacred subject, painted at Jerusalem, for this year's exhibition, of the Royal Academy, and a sketch from Cairo. Mr. Hunt has more recently visited Constantinople and the field of war in the Crimea. It is impossible not to predict great advantage to the genius of this rising and powerful young artist, from all that he has seen and suffered by land and sea.

A subscriber suggests that Dr. Sandwith, the author of the History of the Siege of Kars, should be among the first to be decorated with the Cross of the new Order of Valour.

A HANDSOME RECOGNITION.—Mr. E. T. Smith, lessee of Drury-lane Theatre, has presented Mr. E. T. Blanchard, the author of six successful pantomimes, with a meerschaum pipe.

AUSTRALIA.—An agitation is being got up in Australia against the reserve of £50,000 for ministers of religion. The Dissenters there as well as at home object at being obliged to support rival sects.

DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF THE STEAM SAW-MILLS AT PECKHAM.—For several hours yesterday morning, a destructive fire raged in North-street, Commercial-road, Peckham, on the premises of Mr. A. Woodball, steam-mills. By the time the engines from Waterloo-road, Southwark-road, Watling-street, and West of England arrived, the building with the machinery was nearly destroyed, and the progress of the fire was accelerated by a high wind. At about half-past five o'clock, the flames were subdued; but the engines continued to work on different parts for some time to prevent them again bursting forth. The cause is supposed to be overheating of the furnace. The premises were not insured.

* Treatise on the Cost Book, its principles, and practice: by Thomas Tapping, Esq., Barrister-at-law (1854), published in the *Mining Journal*, No. 356.

Literature.

writers are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

It is one of the sudden pleasures of science to confirm empirical practice, to prove that the "old woman's remedy," or the "custom of the country," although founded on no axiomatic basis, and pretending to no better argument than tradition, may nevertheless have been blind wisdom. From time immemorial it has been a precept with careful shepherds not to let the sheep turn out upon the dewy grass, or graze in damp and marshy regions. Why was the dew of morning, so dear to poets, considered dangerous to sheep? No one could tell; least of all the Bucolic guardian; but if he could not tell you *why* it was so, he averred that it was so. And now Science comes with a very simple explanation to justify the empirical precept. SIEBOLD, the great comparative anatomist, has given the rationale in his curious treatise on Entozoa, which the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* has begun to publish *in extenso*; for those who have not got SIEBOLD's book, *Ueber die Band- und Blasenwürmer*, or who do not read German, the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* is doing a service by its translation. The particular point in SIEBOLD's book to which we are now referring may be thus briefly stated: Entozoa, many of them at least, pass the early portion of their predatory existences in the bodies of one species of animal, and their maturity in another. The eggs are deposited in these later domiciles, but not developed there: they have to be expelled; and the dear little innocents, either as eggs or embryos, are cast upon the wide world to shift for themselves. But how? There they lie on the smoking dung-heap; and far away roam the sheep in whose lungs and liver they alone can develop themselves, and find food; what chance have they? This chance. The rain washes them into the earth; or the farmer flings them in manure upon the soil. The humidity serves to develop them; they fix themselves against the moist grass; the sheep nibble the grass, and with it carry these tiny entozoa into their stomachs: once there the business is soon accomplished!

Thus it is that the dewy grass is dangerous. Thus it is that damp seasons are so prejudicial to sheep, multiplying the diseases of lungs and liver to which these animals are subject; whereas in the dry hot seasons such diseases are rare because the entozoa have been desiccated.

Some time ago we rectified the universal error, of French and other writers, in quoting, or misquoting, the celebrated aphorism of BUFFON, on style. By a simple reference to the passage in which the famous phrase occurs (a passage obviously known to few of those who quote), it appeared that BUFFON did not say: *Le style est l'homme*, but said, what is very different, *Le style est de l'homme même*. As the misquotation is universal we cannot greatly blame M. A. ROCHE for not avoiding it, although in a work expressly devoted to style; a work which, intended for the instruction of students of both sexes in the practice of French composition, is one well worth the attention of all literary students. It is a small volume, entitled, *Du Style et de la Composition Littéraire*, published by LONGMANS. It has the somewhat rare merit of being a work on style written by one whose own style is excellent. Teachers of elocution have generally a brogue or a stutter; teachers of style ought generally to be pupils: they affect to instruct the public, and do so in language which lamentably betrays their own pressing need of instruction. M. ROCHE is not only an experienced teacher, he is an accomplished writer. He knows what good writing is, and in criticising style employs it. We will give one slight specimen: "M. Victor Hugo se pique également d'être concis, et il sait encore moins être précis: il est avaré de mots et prodigue de détails surabondants; il écoure l'expression et il délaie la pensée. Son style est plus serré que celui de M. de Lamartine; mais il est tout aussi diffus. M. de Lamartine a la phrase diffuse; la diffusion de M. Victor Hugo consiste à accumuler des phrases concises, qui sont souvent inutiles."

M. ROCHE, or any one else curious in style, should look in the writings of CHARLES DICKENS for unrivalled prodigality of whimsical images and minute observation. In the last number of *Little Derrit* how the spirit of fun is seen careering amid the minutest details of observation in the descriptions of the mendicant commissioners!—how well observed is the walk of these people, "a peculiar way of doggedly slinking round the corner as if they were eternally going to the pawnbrokers;"—what a glimpse we have of the staircase window which looked in at the back windows of other houses as unwholesome as itself, "with poles and lines thrust out of them on which unsightly linen hung: as if the inhabitants were angling for clothes and had some wretched bites not worth attending to;"—what a lodging-house door-post is that which "seemed as full of bell-handles as a cathedral organ is of stops;" what a description of Mew-street, and of the younger Barnacle always letting his eye-glass fall out, and iterating his imbecile, "Why, look here." The number is bright with genius.

SANDWICH'S SIEGE OF KARS.

A Narrative of the Siege of Kars, and of the Six Months' Resistance by the Turkish Garrison to the Russian Army: together with a Narrative of Travels in Armenia and Lazistan; with Remarks on the Present State of Turkey. By Humphry Sandwith, M.D., Chief of the Medical Staff.

This volume consists of two parts, whereof the first is that last described in the title, and the second relates to the siege of Kars. One is a narrative of

travels, the other is a diary written during the siege, or rather extracts from a diary. So that the narrative of travel, although not written for that purpose, forms a prelude to the story of the siege. We wish we could say that the book had not disappointed us. It is well written and interesting; but we feel that all has not been told, and have a suspicion that the writer might have told us what we want to know; that he would have done less injustice to himself and his subject had he taken more time to work up that subject, in fact, to re-write his notes. But the reader must understand that we are not disappointed with what is presented to us, taken absolutely; we only feel that the author, having produced so good a book, when he was about it might have produced one much better.

Dr. Sandwith is not one of those birds of passage who have recently flown over the Eastern regions and have brought back volumes of travels. His connexion with the East is not of a recent date. He was in the East in 1847, again in 1849, and from the latter year until Kars was taken he did not quit the East. Part of his time was spent at Constantinople; part on the Danube. In the autumn of 1854 he was appointed to the staff of General Williams, and with General Williams he remained until the autumn of 1855. His long residence in Turkey, and his visits to the seat of wars in Europe and Asia, qualify him to speak on these matters.

We are promised a full explanation of the circumstances attending the fall of Kars, and some papers relating to the sombre business are to be produced in Parliament. Let us hope, that if the matter be dealt with at all it will be dealt with fully, that the whole question will be examined, and not a part. The reader who takes up this volume will not find the whole question gone into. But he will find a pretty strong light thrown upon one important element—the influence of the governing classes, or rather persons, of Turkey, in determining the catastrophe. Undoubtedly the answer which Dr. Sandwith's volume gives to the question. What caused the loss of Kars? is—the corruption of the Turkish rulers in the first place, the conduct of Omar Pacha in the second. The latter admits of a question, but the former is beyond all doubt.

In the very earliest pages of the volume Dr. Sandwith, in simply describing the passengers on board the steamer conveying him to Trebizond, strikes the keynote of the whole. One of them is a Pacha going to his government, and our author spies him enjoying his *kef* or *dolce far niente*, "the great occupation of his life since he has been a Pacha!" Here he is finely painted:—

About seven of his attendants stand before him with their hands folded. They preserve a grave and serious air, gazing anxiously into that placid face, and they have been standing there for the last two hours. The Pacha varies the monotony of the voyage by smoking, eating raw cucumbers, and fingering his beads. A Turk, even a Pacha, is never absolutely unoccupied; some such employments as the above are always had recourse to, for I believe he never thinks. His numerous servants watch every movement of his eye. What can it mean; and whence the origin of this strange adoration of their master? We have nothing like it in the West; but from time immemorial it seems to have obtained in Eastern manners. It must have been deeply imprinted into the mind of the nation when each Pacha had the power of life and death; and when at a nod the head of an offending servant was rolled into the dust. The Pacha makes a languid remark; a servant answers, touching his forehead in token of profound respect. The Pacha pushes a stool with his foot, and his attendants spring forward to remove it. The Pacha feels for his snuffbox; a quick-fingered slave has found it for him ere his fingers closed on it. At last the Pacha is tired of sitting on deck, so he makes a move, heaving a sigh at the exertion. Two of his men rush forward to support him on each side; two or three go before, pushing the *profanum vulgus* out of the way, and two or three follow, bearing his pipe, pocket-handkerchief, snuffbox, &c. He is conducted to the cabin, and, a soft cushiony seat being prepared, he settles himself down again, and his attendants take their places as before.

The reader must be reminded that the thing sketched here is not a type of the Osmanli race, he is the type of the modern Byzantine—the adulterated product of debasement and crime. He is not the true representative of the Turk, and his falseness shows the more conspicuous beside the "short, brawny figures, with honest and intelligent features" of the Anatolian peasants, or "the fine graceful stalwart forms of the Circassians." And yet to things like that above described, was entrusted the defence of the Turkish frontier in Armenia. Having taken a personal illustration, let us take one of another kind. The Turk has always treated road-making and road-mending with perfect contempt. The only road in Turkey kept in tolerable repair is that on which the Sultan takes his evening drive. Now, when Russia made a road from Souchem Kale to Erivan, in order to turn the course of commerce into her own territory, the Turk grew jealous and determined to make a road. In this case the Pacha chosen was the model of a "reformed, liberal-minded, civilised Turk," with a Parisian education. Well, he was to make a road from Trebizond to Erzeroum, and he arrived at the former city with plenty of men and money:—

I was at that time a sanguine and confident believer in the reform of Turkey and I still have great hopes, but they are somewhat modified. This road was quoted as an instance of progress, but a few months passed away and the workmen rested from their labours. They had accomplished two miles of road which had been (figuratively speaking) paved with gold. Were the workmen overpaid, or the engineers? What became of the vast sums expended? No one chose to answer these inconvenient questions: the Pacha was removed to fill a high post under Government, and a road of two miles, already in bad repair, remains as a monument of Turkey's indifference and apathy to her own best interests.

Who dare say that the failure of this undertaking was not one of the causes of the fall of Kars?

As it is with her roads, so it is with her vast mineral resources. The mines, with the exception of those at Heraclea in English hands, are worked on the most primitive principles. The farmer of a mine fears to lay out money lest the Government should think he is getting too rich. By a short-sighted and dishonest policy, the Government is liable to break contracts in favour of a higher bidder; in short, everything is done that discourages production. Yet Turkey possesses some of the finest coal, iron, and copper mines in the world; mines that, under a reasonable system of administration, would be the fruitful source of public wealth. Take an instance of a different kind. When Dr. Sandwith arrived at a village near Baiburt, he found that Captain Belliot had been murdered a few hours before. He carried the news to

Erzeroum; the French consul instantly took the matter up; obtained armed aid from the Pacha; proceeded to the spot in Lazistan; harried the villages, and did some justice on the assassins and their accomplices. It so happened that the chief of the band, a sort of Robin Hood of the district, was in league with nearly all the little authorities about the place, and the well-disposed officials stood in awe of the exercise of a privilege which prevails in Turkey—a round robin from the principal inhabitants to the Government against officers who offend them. In pursuing the murderers of Belliot the French consul was assisted by the Mudir of Baiburt, but secretly opposed by Ali Pacha and Ali Bey, two great men at Baiburt. When he returned to Erzeroum, in the simplicity of his heart, the French consul recommended the Mudir to the favourable notice of the Pacha, and expressed a hope that the other vagabonds would be punished. What happened? The Pacha of Erzeroum promised that the rascals should eat dirt. Lo! the Mudir was deposed soon after, and Ali Pacha, the friend of Belliot's murderer, occupied his place. We have told in a few words what is very humorously narrated at length by Dr. Sandwith, as "an illustration of the relative position of consuls and Pachas." He has some admirable remarks on the great use that might be made of consuls in Turkey, which we trust he will instil into the mind of Lord Palmerston.

We have cited some instances of local administration as a preface to the fall of Kars. There are others in these pages that are darker than any we have mentioned. We take a few at random as we travel towards the catastrophe. At the outset of the campaign Abdi Pacha commanded the Kars army, and he won with it a neat little victory at Bayandir. His second in command, Ahmed Pacha, disobeying orders, and fighting his troops badly, got himself defeated at Akiska. Yet, by a profuse dispensation of gold at Constantinople, he procured the dismissal of Abdi Pacha, a poor but honest man. The consequence was that Ahmed Pacha contrived to ruin the army. No fewer than 20,000 men died of hunger and disease; yet "no great mortality marked the muster-rolls sent to Constantinople, for the pay, food, and appointments of the dead men went to fill the coffers of the Pacha and his myrmidons." Zarif Mustapha Pacha, originally a handsome barber's boy, succeeded Ahmed Pacha; and we all know to what a conclusion he brought the campaign of 1854. Let us take a near glimpse of the splendidly organised dishonest system—"the only thing well organised in Turkey:—"

A merchant of my acquaintance, and a man of most undoubted honour, told me himself that he lost a contract of great value, offered to him by one of the highest servants of the state, because he refused to sign his name to an amount of goods, only two-thirds of which were really purchased. The surplus was, of course, to go into the ministerial pocket, but the merchant would have had a handsome present for his connivance. He refused from principle, but it was not difficult to find others of far easier conscience in Constantinople. When bags of money in gold and silver reached Erzeroum, the Musteshar and Defterdar, officials equivalent to paymaster-general, accountant-general, and the like, took possession of the coin and changed it into bank-notes, which only passed at an enormous discount. With this money they paid the different purveyors, many of the latter being colonels of regiments, and generals of brigade, who would, from time to time, draw about a third more of rations for their regiments than they were entitled to; they would hoard the surplus, and after a while re-sell it to Government; or if they heard of a quantity of rice or corn for sale, they would buy it of the merchant and resell it to Government at a handsome profit.

All who had anything to do with the victualling of the force were banded together in a brotherhood of fraud, that they might, by sharing the plunder, wrong the poor soldier with impunity. There was not a single article of consumption that did not illustrate this. Take for example a loaf of bread. It was black and coarse to a degree which rendered it unfit for human; moreover, it was heavy and sodden. The flour, in the first place, was mixed with sundry artificial substances to increase the weight and bulk. It was, moreover, only half baked for the same reason; had it been well baked, more wood would have been consumed, and, each loaf being lighter, a larger bulk would be required to make up the weight. The head baker was required to make handsome presents to those in authority to gain their connivance; these in return had their own reason for being silent; and thus the poor soldier had no earthly protector.

Can the reader fancy honest Colonel Williams coming down among these harpies; can he conceive the consternation; the attempt to gloss it all over; to cheat the commissioner? Colonel Williams arrived in September, 1854, and at once went to business. Here we see him at work:—

For example he would request a review of a certain regiment, which was accordingly drawn up; the muster-roll was presented to him; nine hundred men were there in figures,—he had the men counted, these were but six hundred. Thus the pay, rations, &c., of the three hundred had gone to enrich the Colonel, while the Mushir took his share, and the still higher authorities in Constantinople received a large per-centage. It is not for us to pry into official secrets, but the above facts were notorious in Kars, and we may safely presume that all this villany was not kept secret from her Majesty's Government, who would thus see how, when the very existence of an empire was menaced by a most formidable foe, such men as chiboukjis, barbers, and the like, were sent as Commanders-in-Chief to plunder and ruin an army. He called these corrupt officers to account, he told them of their villany in plain language, and told them moreover, that he was reporting their misdeeds to head-quarters. Further he insisted on knowing the amount of rations issued, of forage consumed, and other details. He personally inspected the kitchens of the camp every morning, and examined the food of the troops. He regularly visited the hospitals, and did his utmost to learn how the patients were cared for. Lastly, at the approach of winter, he examined in detail every house assigned as winter-quarters, and chose the best of them in which to billet the soldiers.

But we must not linger. Time passes. While the Pachas, in spite of the sagacity and resolution of General Williams, are growing rich on the ruin of their country, new English officers arrive whose self-devotion has cast a brighter halo round the frontier towns of the Sultan than all the exertions of his subjects. Lake and Thompson joined Colonel Williams; they were sent on to Kars; and Captain Teesdale, who had wintered there, rejoined his chief at Erzeroum. Colonel Williams becomes a Lieutenant-General in the service of Turkey—and a terror to Pachas, large and small. A respectable man is sent as Mushir. The Turks began to wonder at "Veiliams Pacha"—he was "No end of a man," they said; he worked as no Pacha had ever been known to work before; abroad at the works in sun, rain, and snow. Then, there was the provisioning of the army! From the specimens of

Turkish corruption we have already cited, the reader will be prepared for some shocking things, but we think we can pass the limits of his anticipations. General Williams was forced to take into his own hands the provisioning of Kars. He had to get it done under the greatest difficulty. The Pachas were indifferent, and haggled over a bargain while their country was lapsing to ruin.

From Constantinople nothing was forthcoming—except advice from the Minister of War to the Mushir, as Dr. Sandwith tells us, to *abandon* the frontier fortresses without a blow. At length the Russians are found to be on the move, and with such means as have been accumulated the battle must be fought. General Williams, Teesdale, and Sandwith rode into Kars on the 7th of June. That very day they were informed, in confidence, that there were only three days' ammunition in store; they learnt that a vast depot of corn, within a few miles of the city, had not been brought in, but left for the Russians; they found that there were not more than 15,000 men to line most extensive positions. The medical stores consisted in great part of cosmetics and obstetric instruments! Thus, the reader will see, pretty distinctly, from the tenor of our remarks and statements, that one cause of the fall of Kars was the ingrained corruption of the Turkish authorities.

We have now arrived at that part of the volume entitled, *Extracts from the diary*; and we feel that instead of attempting to build an imperfect narrative, the reader will be better pleased with some extracts. We only premise that previous numbers of this journal have made the reader acquainted with the rough outline of the siege.

Take this as a prelude:—

July 17.—A most dismal discovery is made to-day; it is suddenly found that we have no barley; the keeper of the stores, Salih Agha, announces that the stores are unaccountably empty; he makes a most confused explanation, and a very little inquiry into his papers brings to light enormous peculations and false returns. The General causes the state of our provisions to be rigorously investigated, and the most careful lists to be made of all who are receiving rations; he also orders the men to be put on two-fifths rations of bread, and fed regularly with animal food. For this purpose nearly all the oxen and sheep of Kars are purchased. He causes all the barley and grass within range of our heavy guns, and even further, to be cut and stacked for the consumption of the cavalry and artillery. This inquiry into the state of the rations brings to light the most reckless extravagance, which he checks with a strong hand.

The General shows that he can quell mutiny even in the savage natives of Lazistan:—

August 4.—Some skirmishing of outposts, as usual. Bands of our Laz plunder the village of Chorak, and return to camp laden with their booty: they are met by Thompson and Teesdale, who order their instant arrest, on which they present their rifles and draw their kamas; they are, however, captured after considerable resistance, and, on the circumstance being reported to the General, he insists on their being publicly flogged, which sentence is carried into execution before a thousand troops and a considerable body of their own people: moreover, their arms are smashed to pieces, and the offenders thrown into prison. We hear of no more Laz insubordination for the rest of the siege.

Here is some biography, picturesque and acceptable. It is the 8th August, and there are fears for the stores:—

Every one felt these facts weigh heavily on his mind, and all looked to the General, to the "Inglesz Pacha," for encouragement. No sign of despondency clouded that honest face; his "Good morning" salutation was as cheerful as on the morrow of our first little victory. He was thin, certainly—he could not well be thinner: but, no wonder, for he never seemed to sleep. Long ere daylight broke he was with the sentries of Tahmasp, the point nearest the Russian camp, and his glass learned every movement; then he was by the side of the Mushir during the greater part of the day; anon, he was encouraging the Bashli-Bozooks and settling their differences, or anxiously arranging some plan for feeding the townspeople; and, in our little confidential gossips on the state of affairs, he would impress on us the duty of maintaining a bright and hopeful bearing, since all the garrison looked up to us for encouragement. Thompson lived altogether on the Karadagh, and his glass ranged the horizon from early morning until night; nor did he then go to a quiet couch, for, though he turned in certainly, yet, after an hour's light slumber, he would visit each sentry round the whole works, and no part of our position was better, if as well, guarded as that where this Argus had taken up his quarters. Often have I given him a call at midnight with Colonel Lake, whom I very frequently accompanied on his night duties. Teesdale lived with that gallant Hungarian and first-rate soldier, Kmety, on Tahmasp tabia. These two had formed a strong attachment, based on mutual admiration; there was the hero of many campaigns, and the young soldier, brimful of courage, hope, and noble aspirations. Teesdale acted as chief of his staff, and, besides his graver duties, he was constantly harassing the Cossacks with parties of riflemen, or menacing and attacking the Russian cavalry with a company of rifles and a couple of guns. The state of blockade to which we were now reduced fretted his ardent spirit not a little; he wanted to attack almost against any odds; and, had each soldier and Turkish officer resembled himself, I verily believe we might have done so. I find I have been biographising, if I may coin a word. But amid the sketches thus involuntarily falling from my pen, I have omitted Colonel Lake. The truth is, he cannot be found either at Karadagh or Tahmasp; he, like the General, is doing his best to wear out an iron frame; his couch is his saddle, for all day long he is working at the entrenchments, and all night he is visiting the sentries. The Queen has had many a bad bargain during this war, but I doubt whether more admirable officers are to be found in the English army than the four I have mentioned.

The siege advances; false news arrives that Omar Pacha has landed at Trebizond; the garrison is compelled to send away its cavalry to be cut up by the enemy; cholera comes, alas, and famine hovers close upon them. Then we have a vivid description of the glorious victory of the 29th Sept.; followed by the dismal days, when hope that the Russians would raise the siege, or that friends would bring relief, alternated in the minds of our heroes. One extract, relating to the attack on the 29th, we must make room for, and then pass sternly to sterner pages. Here it is:—

Oct. 4.—One of our wounded Russian officers is a Pole, who has had half his face carried away by a grape-shot. He regrets beyond measure the loss of a ring on which is engraved the name of Eloise, and declares that the recovery of this trinket, which he values beyond anything in the world, would at once cure him. Mr. Rennie, our interpreter, hearing of this, produces a ring, which he has bought from a soldier, and which proves to be the identical one so much desired. The poor fellow leaps from his bed, wild with joy, on the recovery of his lost treasure,

the gift of some distant well-beloved one. This wounded officer died of paralysis a few days after this event.

Provisions grow less and less; spies are many; deserters shot; hope of Omar Pacha disappears; and hope of Selim Pacha rises—both alike to deceive.

Nov. 4.—An unusual number of soldiers enter the hospital, dying of starvation. The emaciation is wonderful, yet in most no diarrhoea or other symptom of disease is observable. Their voices are excessively feeble, a clammy cold pervades the surface of the body, and they die without a struggle. Several of these men are recovered by the administration of horse-broth, with the application of warmth to the extremities. Surgeons are posted in every part of the camp, with broth of horse-flesh in the form and under the name of medicine. A search is made for surviving horses, and these are secured to make soup for the hospital.

Nov. 9.—Our hospitals are crowded mostly by men who sink under the combined influences of hunger and cold. These poor fellows are brought in livid and emaciated, and frequently die within less than an hour of their admission. Nov. 10.—About 100 men die in the hospitals in the 24 hours. Every one seems trying to assume a cheerfulness he can scarcely feel. . . . With hollow cheeks, tottering gait, and that peculiar feebleness of voice so characteristic of famine, they yet cling to their duties! . . . and, in answer to a word of encouragement or consolation, the loyal words are on their lips, "Long live the Sultan!"

Nov. 11.—The cries of distress grow louder. Numbers of children die of hunger. . . . Nov. 14.—I observe people lying at the corners of the streets, groaning and crying out that they are dying of hunger. . . . The soldiers in the batteries have stood sentry over three days' provisions, and, although starving, no instance of their touching a single biscuit has ever been known. . . . Nov. 18.—Mothers bring their children to the military council, and throw them at the feet of the officers, exclaiming: "Take and keep these children, for we have no bread to give them!"

One more extract, and we quit this volume. It will form a fitting close to our brief notice of this excellent book. The day of yielding is come; but let us see how General Williams yields, and how General Mouravieff accepts. The scene would make a great picture.

Nov. 25.—General Williams and his aide-de-camp Teesdale ride over under a flag of truce to the Russian camp. They are well received by Mouravieff. The General tells his chivalrous enemy that he has no wish to rob him of his laurels; the fortress contains a large train of artillery, with numerous standards, and a variety of arms, but the army has not yet surrendered, nor will it without certain articles of capitulation. "If you grant not these," exclaimed the General, "every gun shall be burst, every standard burnt, every trophy destroyed, and you may then work your will on a famished crowd." "I have no wish," answered Mouravieff, "to wreak an unworthy vengeance on a gallant and long-suffering army, which has covered itself with glory, and only yields to famine." "Look here," he exclaimed, pointing to a lump of bread and a handful of roots, "what splendid trophies must these be who can stand to their arms in this severe climate on food such as this! General Williams, you have made yourself a name in history, and posterity will stand amazed at the endurance, the courage, and the discipline which this siege has called forth in the remains of an army. Let us arrange a capitulation that will satisfy the demands of war without outraging humanity." I leave my readers to imagine anything more touching than the interview between these gallant leaders, whose eyes were suffused with tears, while their hearts were big with sentiments of high honour and graceful benevolence.

But the soldiers, weak as they were, felt the degradation of yielding to an enemy they had conquered; starved, as Dr. Sandwith says, "by the dishonest robbery of rascally pachas, and the wicked apathy and unworthy intrigues of Byzantine officials." Some of the soldiers broke their weapons and cried, "Thus perish our pachas—the curse of God be on them!" When Williams Pacha passed away as a prisoner the people crowded round him for his blessing. Kmetz and Colman had ridden away to Erzeroum, by the advice of General Williams, before the capitulation; Williams and his brave coadjutors were taken to Gumri; while Dr. Sandwith, to whom General Mouravieff—that Bayard of Russia—gave unconditional liberty for his kind attention to Russian prisoners, rode over the mountains to Batoum. Thus fell Kars in the last days of November, 1855.

THE MACAULAY CONTROVERSY.

William Penn: An Historical Biography. By Hepworth Dixon. A new edition, with a Reply to Mr. Macaulay's Charges against Penn. Chapman and Hall.

THE controversy between Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Hepworth Dixon has now reached a point at which it ought not to rest. Mr. Macaulay has elaborately impeached the character of William Penn. He has charged the great Englishman with low, as well as with high crimes, and has made statements in support of the accusation. Mr. Dixon, the biographer of Penn, defends his good name, and adduces testimony which, if Mr. Macaulay has no counter evidence, is conclusive. But in his eleventh edition, Mr. Macaulay adds nothing to the evidence which Mr. Dixon destroyed, and retracts none of the charges against which Mr. Dixon appealed. Instead of this, in his third and fourth volumes, he still further disparages the reputation of Penn, only, in this instance, the charge rests upon inference, and not upon fact. It is, therefore, the more difficult to prove, and the more difficult to refute.

Mr. Dixon has thus been challenged to renew a controversy which he had been willing should subside. He had withdrawn from the popular impression of this memoir his original reply to Mr. Macaulay's charges, designing to reproduce it, possibly modified, in a library edition. His object, indeed, had been gained. The critics, in general, had acknowledged that Mr. Dixon's portrait of Penn was faithful, and that Mr. Macaulay had preferred charges which he could not prove. Even the *Edinburgh Review*, "the organ of his party, and the defender of his fame," allowed that the brilliant Whig historian was bound to retract his principal accusation. There, then, the question seemed settled. But one issue after another of the "History" repeated the charge, which in the third and fourth volumes is aggravated.

In the preface to this new edition a reply is made upon the whole case. Before analysing the evidence on both sides, we must do justice to the spirit in which Mr. Dixon has resumed the argument. It has been common with the younger generation of critics to pronounce a flippant judgment on Mr. Macaulay's work, to say that it is not "history," without suggesting what history is; to condemn, for a few inaccuracies of statement, and for a few passionately-emphasised opinions, the splendid labour of many years, the clear and well-wrought picture of a period so confused and exciting that,

after the lapse of a century and a-half, men can scarcely look back on it with impartial eyes. The levity and derision with which Mr. Macaulay has been treated by "clever" reviewers indicate a forgetfulness of the rare magnitude of his researches, the oppressive accumulation of his materials, the industry, the wisdom, and the art required to fuse them into a continuous narrative, to polish the surface, to distribute the colour, to combine reserve with eloquence, and rhetoric with discretion. If Mr. Macaulay advances, at some points, too far, if he exaggerates the crimes of Marlborough and the virtues of William, if he forgets where one poet died and where another was buried, if he treats Dryden with rigour and Penn with injustice, let those correct him who can; but no writer who understands what historical composition is, or who has qualified himself for criticism by minute research, will undervalue the book of which Mr. Macaulay is proud, and which makes his country proud of him.

In no such temper does Mr. Hepworth Dixon renew the Penn controversy. He writes as one who would not lose the respect of his adversary, and in this version of his reply does not print an uncourteous word. He is calm, moderate, and strictly critical. His rhetoric is confined to the clear exposition of facts, for every one of which an authority is quoted in the margin. Our task, then, is simply to decide which of the conflicting statements, Mr. Macaulay's or Mr. Dixon's, is historical. Mr. Dixon remarks:—

First of all, let me state very plainly that the accusation of Penn does not begin with Mr. Macaulay. It arose in Penn's own times. He was pious, active, and successful—a reformer, an originator, a disputant. He was rich, and lived in troubled times. Many coveted his wealth—not a few disliked his virtues. Calumny pursued him as it pursued Milton in his retreat, and Sidney into his grave. For one instant, even the gentle and pious Tillotson gave ear to the voice of slander; but he frankly sought for an explanation; he was reconciled at once and forever to his old friend, and, in his generous ardour, undertook his defence against all whisperers and backbiters. Slander was the habit of the time. Society was pestered with a set of fellows—the sweepings of the stew-who, under pretences of serving their party, dealt in foul anecdotes and secret information. They spiced very high in order to please. In the way of their trade, they charged public men with the most unlikely crimes, and imputed to them the most unexpected opinions. They endowed the objects of their literary exercise with more virtues than Suetonius heaped upon the twelve Cæsars. They painted in colours darker than those of Juvenal. No reputation escaped their arts, and they delighted to stain the purest spots. William, known to be cold, was charged by those who supplied the Jacobite market with the pollutions which once brought fire from heaven. Penn, known to entertain strong opinions against war, was represented by those who hoped to be paid for the lie as anxious to see England invaded by a foreign army. The accusations were equally base.

The accusations against Penn, specifically stated, are—first, that he extorted money from the Taunton girls for the benefit of the maids of honour; secondly, that he tried to seduce Kiffin to the court interest; thirdly, that he sought to gain the Prince of Orange's assent to the Declaration of Indulgence; fourthly, that he was employed to terrify, caress, or bribe the fellows of Magdalen; fifthly, that he excused himself before the council with a falsehood; sixthly, that he told Lord Sydney something very like a lie, and confirmed it with something very like an oath; seventhly, that he sent a message to James exhorting him to return with thirty thousand men; and, eighthly, that he did his best to bring a foreign army into England. Thus he is indicted for "extortion, lying, seduction, simony, and treason."

The first accusation is undoubtedly disproved by Mr. Dixon. No contemporary historian or writer of letters or memoirs, alluded to William Penn in connexion with the scandalous Taunton affair. Mr. Macaulay's charge rests on a letter, signed "Sunderland," addressed to "Mr. Penne," which Sir James Mackintosh discovered in the State Paper Office; but he has added to it. Mr. Dixon's counter-statement shows that the individual addressed was not William Penn, but George Penne, a notorious pardon broker, whose name occurs more than once in public documents under similar circumstances. The books of the Privy Council prove that he was a commission agent of corruption, who hoped to obtain as his reward a gambling monopoly in America.

Mr. Macaulay says that Penn was employed to seduce Kiffin from his principles by the offer of an alderman's gown. Kiffin himself, opposed as he had been, in the pulpit and on the platform, to the quaker chief, exonerates him from the charge. He relates, in his autobiography, not that Penn was sent to him, but that he went to Penn, to engage his intercession at Court, that he might, without offence, refuse the scarlet gown. Mr. Macaulay makes it appear that he ultimately declined the dignity. Kiffin himself says that he accepted it, and was invested at the palace.

That Penn should have gone to the Hague to solicit the Prince of Orange's assent to the Declaration of Indulgence seems impossible. The Declaration was not issued until April, 1687; Penn returned from his tour in the autumn of 1688. Besides, Burnet and Citter, relied on by Mr. Macaulay, never mention the Act of Indulgence. They speak simply of "toleration." Burnet, as quoted by Mr. Dixon, does not even say that Penn wrote a letter on the subject.

Here ceases the discrepancy of positive statements, and the conflict of inferences begins. Mr. Macaulay affirms that Penn was employed to terrify, caress, or bribe the fellows of Magdalen. The case depends upon the interpretation of certain words which the historian construes as corrupt, and the biographer as jocose. Mr. Macaulay quotes the State trials, and appears, also, to have drawn upon the life of Hough, though he does not cite it. To these authorities Mr. Dixon adds a paper by Hunt, a fellow of Magdalen, and the letters of Sykes, Creech, and Bailey. Without a minute recapitulation, the circumstances would be unintelligible. Certainly, however, Dr. Hough, to whom the offer is said to have been made, described it as a jest, and "thanked God" that Penn proposed no "accommodation."

The authorities accepted by Mr. Macaulay himself prove that Penn, while he had a personal leaning towards James, resisted him in politics, blamed his Jesuitical tendencies, repudiated French intervention, and maintained against his "Divine prerogative," the principles of Locke and Sydney. But not in reference to this topic alone does Mr. Macaulay impute a lie to Penn. He writes:

Sidney received from him a strange communication. Penn begged for an interview, but insisted on a promise that he should be suffered to return unmolested to his hiding-place. Sidney obtained the royal permission to make an appointment on the terms. Penn came to the rendezvous, and spoke at length in his

own defence. He declared that he was a faithful subject of King William and Queen Mary, and that if he knew of any design against them he would discover it. Departing from his Yea and Nay, he protested, as in the presence of God, that he knew of no plot, and that he did not believe there was any plot, unless the ambitious projects of the French government might be called plots. Sidney, amazed probably by hearing a person who had such an abhorrence of lies that he would not use the common forms of civility, and such an abhorrence of oaths that he would not kiss the book in a court of justice, tell something very like a lie, and confirm it by something very like an oath, asked how, if there were no plot, the letters and minutes which were found on Ashton were to be explained. This question Penn evaded.

Mr. Dixon replies, quoting the letter, unabbreviated, in the margin:—

I entreat Mr. Macaulay to re-read Lord Sidney's letter—the sole authority for his statements. There is no mention in it of any "hiding-place." Sidney says, "I found him just as he used to be, not at all disguised, but in the same clothes and the same humour I have formerly seen him in." Sidney never hints that he was "amazed" at Penn's words. Sidney never suggests that he thought Penn was telling "anything very like a lie." Sidney evidently believes Penn's words. Mr. Macaulay declares that—"He (Penn) assured Sidney that the most formidable enemies of the government were the discontented Whigs." Sidney's letter never names the "discontented Whigs." Sidney does not say that he "asked how the letters and minutes which had been found on Ashton were to be explained." Mr. Macaulay makes Penn say, very nonsensically, "the Jacobites are not dangerous." Sidney makes him say something very sensible and very true: that some of those who came over with William, and some of those who were the first to join him, "were more dangerous than the Jacobites." Mr. Macaulay's third and fourth volumes are an elaborate vindication of the truth of Penn's statement.

Surely this is clear, unless Mr. Macaulay has documentary evidence which he does not cite. For his next statement, that Penn exhorted James to descend on the English coast with thirty thousand men, he refers only to an anonymous paper, with which, Mr. Dixon tells us, there is a memorial, drawn up by Williamson, a Court spy, containing the passage, "used by Mr. Macaulay." Further elucidation of this point is necessary. It is not enough to say that the idea is absurd. Mr. Macaulay, no doubt, has made a serious charge, corroborated by the slightest and least respectable testimony; but Mr. Dixon's refutation would have failed, had not the ninth charge included the eighth. It is, that Penn did his best to bring a foreign army into England. Avaux's letter to the French king is adduced, with fragments, "which must have been part" of a letter from Penn to which Avaux had referred. Now, in this letter, it is Avaux himself who suggests the "foreign army." He does not say that "Penn wrote to James;" he merely refers to a letter in which Penn described the political condition of England exactly as Mr. Macaulay describes it in the earlier chapters of his third volume.

In this argument, Mr. Dixon has the advantage over Mr. Macaulay. He has concentrated his attention upon Penn. Mr. Macaulay has studied men and events in groups. Mr. Macaulay allows his rhetoric to escape his facts; Mr. Dixon tests every statement by a close and penetrating analysis. It would have been fortunate had the historians of every age been watched by critics as vigilant, and as largely informed. We think that Mr. Macaulay is bound to modify his assertions, or to authenticate them by additional evidence. At the same time, he may have judged from impressions produced by a multiplicity of the flying satires of the day, and, as Mr. Dixon will acknowledge, it is impossible by an exact reference to justify an impression. From the facts that appear, however, and from the inferences they permit, the general case against Penn has failed.

Mr. Dixon's biography of Penn occupies a permanent place in the library of historical memoirs. It has passed out of the courts of criticism. We have therefore restricted our notice to the new preface, which deals with new aspects of an old topic. The narrative itself is a masterpiece, pictorial, bright, and written with as much integrity as eloquence, and will increase in popularity as the study of English personal history becomes more general.

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF RUSSIA.

Russia: its Rise and Progress, Tragedies and Revolutions. By the Rev. T. Milner, M.A. Longman and Co.

THE war has produced a class of compilations, framed upon a false idea. It has been supposed that, to authorise a new historical account of Russia, no fresh materials are necessary. One abridgment after another has been presented, with the same incidents invariably repeated, from the Legend of St. Andrew to Bestujeff's refusal of mercy. In spirit, in form, in detail, and in result, these books are but variations of one story. The reason is, not that the Russian annals have been exhausted, but that compilers, as a body, are an indolent race, mechanical, inartistic, unwilling to search, unable to criticise. Thus, Mr. Milner, who promises to describe tragedies and revolutions that have given a distinct character to Russian history, enlarges on some that are partially mythical, and neglects others of which the events are undoubted. His new work is a reccoco development of others that have preceded it. Unless we greatly mistake, he gave many of the facts, and some of the anecdotes, in a former volume. He has merits, but they are of an inferior kind. He writes freely and smoothly, gives way to no fanaticism, fosters no vulgar acrimony. But in a book which pretends to explain the causes of the rise and progress of an extraordinary empire, and the tragic episodes of its dynastic history, we have a right to expect more than fragments, ill-arranged and superficial. Taking the "tragedies" in order, as they have occurred since the accession of Peter the First, panegyrised by Voltaire and libelled by Du Marsais;—what does Mr. Milner tell us of the insurrection of the Strelitz? That the passions of the soldiery were inflamed by the artful representations of an ambitious family. We have no glimpse of the social state of the capital, and few particulars as to the relations between the army and the throne. From this point we follow Mr. Milner to the death of the "Great" Czar, and after his funeral are forced to travel back that we may learn how he poisoned his son. But it is chiefly in the treatment of more recent events that Mr. Milner exposes his want of the historical faculty. From a brief account of the invasion of Russia by Napoleon, we expect naturally to be led with Alexander through the retributive campaigns that followed; but these, says the writer, were European, not Russian events,

and so he dismisses them in three lines. Accordingly, the reader learns nothing of the military power of Russia, as it stood, after the burning of Moscow, in comparison with that of the other nations. Again, upon the Emperor's death, Mr. Milner might have occupied a ground which his predecessors had neglected; he might have explained the revolt that followed. But he informs us, merely, that the written renunciation of Constantine was by him avowed, and that Nicholas then enthroned himself "to encounter an insurrection." "Though far from being prepared for action, the conspirators determined to avail themselves of the change of sovereignty, and of the uncertainty respecting the succession, to attempt a revolution. Pestal was the military, and the poet Ryleief the civil head of the conspiring party." Who was Pestal? If Mr. Milner were our only instructor we should know little of him or of "the poet Ryleief." A few vague words about "a new Russia" bring us to the catastrophe, and within the space of two pages the insurrection is quelled, and Mr. Milner is soaring over Ararat, to declaim on the death of the giant Czar. In this imperfect and flimsy style the entire volume is constructed; scarcely one statement is verified, nor has Mr. Milner, apparently, consulted any but the most obvious authorities. We see no reason why compilations of this nature should continue to be written, or to be read. Mr. Milner's slight chapter on the progress of Russia in Asia suggests an excellent text for an authentic and picturesque history. Nothing would be more interesting than to trace the advance of Russian enterprise from the Ural to Behring's Straits, and from the Arctic Ocean to China. Fur stations, wooden forts, narrow roads—almost imperceptible; such were the earliest indications of the approach of a great military power to the shores of the North Pacific. "The Kurile isles were reached, then Japan, and two Japanese appeared among the mongrel crowds at St. Petersburg." The mines of Siberia were opened, and their produce carried eastwards and westwards; the frontiers of China were reached, and the sentinels of the two imperial armies saluted one another at Maimachen. Russia encroached in this direction as the Hudson's Bay Company encroached in America, sending hunters and trappers to explore and rifle the forests, and gradually extorting tribute from the feeble tribes. In the middle of the seventeenth century a line of forts was built along the Amur, to secure an outlet on the narrow sea beyond, and thence on the Pacific. Two hundred years later these settlements are almost unknown to the English nation, and ships are sent to discover what Russia is doing "in those parts!"

It follows that the study of Russian history, on the broadest scale, is now essential. That young empire is greater than it is reckoned. It is fusing many races into one, and it is time that the process should be understood in the West. But we must have better histories. Mr. Milner's volume, even as a manual, is deficient in many necessary qualities.

LAMARTINE'S "CELEBRATED CHARACTERS."

Memoirs of Celebrated Characters. By Alphonse De Lamartine. Vol. III. Bentley.

M. DE LAMARTINE delights in contrast, turns from William Tell to Madame de Sevigné, places the mythical Antar by the side of an imaginary Milton, and concludes his biographical series with Bossuet. We learned, from his former volumes, to consider him as an artist, not as a historian; but in his art he is a master: he raises a glittering pedestal, sets on it a figure, and clothes and colours the figure so that it becomes, if not a reality, an idealisation, if not a portrait, a brilliant picture. Even his Swiss patriot is not the Tell of the mountain songs, or of Schiller, but the antique Virginius in a fisherman's garb. His Switzerland is a painted scene, dotted with ornamental cottages, quaint and fanciful as fairy land. Madame de Sevigné is a fair-haired classic, lovely as Phryne, chaste as Cornelia. She is the idol and the oracle of her age, with the wit of Mary Wortley Montague, the fascination of Emma Hamilton, the delicacy of Jane Grey, and the virtues of Rachel Russell. M. de Lamartine, before her image, becomes the Pygmalion of biography, adores the lady, and adorns her name with the most richly-wrought epithets, double and single. Her brow "reflected the light like a transparent thought," her eyelids were "veined alabaster," her nostrils had "rose coloured wings." Half was never more rapturous; but M. de Lamartine excels all poets, Persians or others, when he sings of Madame de Sevigné's memory "surviving" that of nearly all her contemporaries, Malherbe, Racine, Pascal, La Bruyère, Fénelon; and, though M. Steinhart may protest, Bossuet himself. But it is M. de Lamartine's privilege to glow like the sunrise upon his subject; he warms into red and violet the snow of the Alps; he delineates the traditional beauty of Thermadour; he digs Confucius from the dust, and exhales from the blood of our First Charles a sacred perfume; why not, then, gild and bejewel the memory of Madame de Sevigné? The story is a charming one to read; the paradox is picturesque; the sounding and gorgeous style is neither too noisy to be musical, nor too ornate for grace. When M. de Lamartine introduces rich lights and deep colours it is with such art that the tableau, if surprising, is not barbaric.

To say the truth, we prefer his rhetoric to his criticism. Whom can he offend by exalting the Lady of the Rocks, or by wreathing a hundred epithets into his character of Antar? But it is otherwise when great historical names are treated, not with levity only, but with bitterness. No French writer, perhaps, is qualified to be the biographer of John Milton; certainly M. de Lamartine is not, who, like the Count de Montalembert, so far misreads the history of our Civil Wars as to esteem Charles the First no greater criminal than Louis the Sixteenth. False parallels are the sins of too free and rapid writers; and M. de Lamartine is in this respect particularly unhappy. He compares the Counts of the German empire to the Thirty Tyrants, Paradise Lost, obliquely, with the Henriade, St. Pierre to Theocritus, Bossuet to Cicero, Demosthenes, Chatham, Mirabeau, and Vergniaud in a cluster; "Bossuet," says M. de Lamartine, was the Bible fused into a man—the Bible alive! Richelieu was at once a Sejanus and a Cromwell; St. Vincent de Paul was the "St. John of modern Christianity." From that burning zenith his imagination slowly declines, discovering analogies between Tacitus and Tertullian, St. Augustine and Plato, and reaches the earth with Milton, with whom he dives into Confusion. Not content with confounding his motives with those of Salmasius, he compares the essays attributed to Charles—"Celestial Pleas"—with the psalms of

David. This is frivolity, but what is it to say that Milton "resembled Marius in the sanguinary proscriptions of the Republic?" Were it not that we respect M. de Lamartine as a writer whose works have done as much honour to France as to himself, we should imagine that he seeks to impose on the credulity of his French readers. But he is above the imputation. He has merely criticised Milton without studying the history of the period in which Milton lived.

From this injudicious appeal to obsolete ideas, we are glad to "fly to the desert" with M. de Lamartine, to discourse with him on those that dwell in tents, on the balm and beauty of Arabia. He tells the tale of Antar, sung long ago by Asmai, and known in England through Hamilton's translation. To M. de Lamartine, of course, the events are historical. He realises them in the prelude, and relates, in "the decorative" style, how Themadour, daughter of Amroun, had hair black as the night, eyes lustrous as heaven, a face like a rose, a form like a palm. And all the adventures of Antar are described, his feats, his marriage, his minstrelsy, his slaying of the lion, his heroic death—and these episodes rise into life under M. de Lamartine's hand. It would be well if he, or other writers, could naturalise in the West the glowing legends of the East, some of those wonderful stories which, in mere translations, are unreadable. Who reads the history of Hatim Tai? Who has selected the romantic fragments that are to be found amid the unchaste exuberance of "The Garden of Knowledge?" Excepting the "Arabian Night's Entertainments," scarcely any Oriental fictions are popular in Europe. Mr. G. P. R. James attempted to imitate them; but his Gulnare was a Columbine, and his palace of the Jinn a mere jeweller's shop. Your true Orientalist does not load his branches with as many bulbs as figs, or his gardens with as many roses as atoms of light. The East is not all purple and gold, any more than the Red Indian is all paint and feathers.

In his treatment of Bossuet, as we have indicated, M. de Lamartine soars into analogies, unattempted yet in prose or rhyme. His Bossuet is the successor, by the title of genius, to Moses. But, with all this redundancy, he writes many true and impressive things concerning the great Catholic orator, a Bellarmine in the pulpit. Among ingenuities of suggestion, we may instance his theory, which he promptly elaborates, that territories and cities influence men, as men influence cities and territories. Thus, Bossuet, born in a patrician province, abounded in pride, and wanted feeling. Dijon, an intellectual but not an enthusiastic capital, produced St. Bernard, Bossuet, and Buffon, "men of bronze and marble, rather than of flesh. The first had Abelard for his victim, the second Fénelon, and the third dissected all nature without finding a tear, a single hymn of praise, or a deity." That M. de Lamartine is not always equally elegant when equally bold, may be inferred when we say that he likens the two curls on Bossuet's forehead to the horns of a (prophetic) ram.

We have now indicated the kind of interest possessed by M. de Lamartine's third volume of *Memoirs*. The biographies abound with graces of style and fancy, and though in great part apocryphal, have none of the dullness which often accompanies didactic accuracy.

HISTORY OF GERMAN PROTESTANTISM.

Internal History of German Protestantism since the Middle of the Last Century. By Dr. KAHNIS. Translated from the German by the Rev. Theodore Meyer.

Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

As naturalists tell us that the animals of the Old World are represented by analogous, but not by identical species in the New, so the various forms of religious opinion amongst us are represented by corresponding but not precisely similar forms in Germany. The Anglican Churchman is *ipso verbo* a purely English product; but his species has its German analogue in the extreme Lutheran party, which has been urged into a rigid and vehement assertion of its peculiar tenets by the unsuccessful attempt of the late and actual Kings of Prussia to effect a union between the two great branches of German Protestantism known as the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. The opinions of the "High" Lutherans concerning the authority of the Church and the efficacy of the Sacraments, resemble, with a difference not, let us hope, absolutely fatal, those of our more geographically favoured Anglicans, and among the other indications of kinship, a certain arrogance of tone is not wanting. To this extreme Lutheran party belongs Dr. KAHNIS, the author of the compact *History of German Protestantism* of which we have the translation before us. His opinion as to the "rule of faith" may be gathered from the following observations:—

To go thus immediately back to Scripture, appears, at first sight, as the truly free proceeding, and yet, at the same time, truly bound; in one word, as the truly Protestant proceeding. But if every Protestant divine were to expound Scripture in his own way, were himself to form the doctrines, and to shape their building according to his own method,—what would be the result? A chaos of stand-points atomistically crossing one another, with which no Church, no sound science would be possible. Behind this apparent objectivity, an unbounded subjectivity is concealed. Men so rich in intellect and spirit as Beck, must not influence the opinion as to what the stand-point is in itself. If the Protestant Church calls the Scriptures the rule of the doctrines of faith, it does not thereby say that Scripture is the source of them. Even before the books of the New Testament were written and collected, there existed in the congregations a consciousness of faith. It was founded upon the oral word of the Apostles, and very early, according to the Confession at Baptism, assumed the form of rules of faith, which were regarded as the sum and substance of both the oral and written word. The first *Dogmatik* (*Origin on the Fundamental Doctrines*) proceeds from the rule of the faith. This rule of faith is, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church, her confession, of which she is convinced that it is at one with the confession of the Catholic Church, as is declared in the Augsburg Confession, at the close, and in the *formula concordie*, at the commencement. Every *dogmatik* has anew to compare the doctrine of the confessions with the rule and measure of Scripture; it has merely, in a scientific manner, to evolve the confession, but not to produce it from Scripture itself. It may be that the argumentation from Scripture comes into contradiction with the confession of the Church, inasmuch as it is, after all, of human origin. But, without prejudice to the rights of Protestantism and science, we may well demand from our divines, that they shall not consider their own opinion to be infallible, while they assert the fallibility of the Church.

Having thus forewarned the reader of the point of view from which Dr.

KAHNIS' little book is written, we may recommend it to him, in the absence of better and equally accessible books on the same subject as a useful and compendious survey. The information that can be given on so great a subject in about three hundred duodecimo pages is necessarily scanty, but it is rendered un-necessarily so by an unwise expenditure of space on gossiping biographical details, which ought to have no place in a rapid historical sketch. Dr. KAHNIS seems, especially, tempted to give such details when they are disadvantageous to those whom he regards as heterodox. An example of his very bad taste in this way is his gratuitous mention of a private, and, as he thinks, reprehensible relation of Schleiermacher's in early life. The other defects which might be pointed out in the book are chiefly theoretic, and will not be recognised as defects by those who share the author's theological position.

We wish our criticism could stop here, but the injury that is constantly being done to the reading public by the issue of defective translations, renders it a duty for reviewers to allow no case of the kind to pass unnoticed. The Rev. Theodore Meyer, as we gather from his preface to his translation, is a German; it is not surprising, therefore, that his English should be thickly inlaid with German idioms, but it is surprising that publishers who risk large sums on the reproduction of foreign works should not be more careful to secure a respectable quality of translation. Throughout this volume we are constantly meeting with such sentences as these: "For I know as little as nothing when I am told that some one has, however openly, declared, twenty-two years ago, for something by which I believe, even to-day no one knows to think of anything definite and distinct, as little as twenty-two years ago." "I don't observe almost anything at all." "Spinoza's substance had no personal life, without the things, no personality," &c. &c.

Translators, as a class, seem to want impressing with the wholesome truth that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. They are "brokers in the great intellectual traffic of the world"—a function not so high as that of the producers, but one which it is of manifest importance to have carefully and honestly fulfilled.

ALBERT SMITH ON ENGLISH HOTELS.

The English Hotel Nuisance. By Albert Smith.

David Bryce.

Mr. ALBERT SMITH is determined to lay the public under obligations to him. Not content with going up and down *Mont Blanc* with them more than twelve hundred times, he now comes forward gallantly to fight the battle of his home-travelling countrymen against their own Innkeepers. In a gay little pamphlet, boldly called "The English Hotel Nuisance," and modestly sold for no more than sixpence, he exposes all the most striking defects of the comfortless and expensive Hotel system of this country, and briefly and sensibly suggests the best means of reforming it. The pamphlet is written with delightful gaiety and good humour, with extraordinary acuteness of observation, and with an honest, downright contempt for all clap-traps and conventionalities which it is truly refreshing to meet with now-a-days. No matter how venerable by long custom hotel nuisances may be, the unerring "bull's-eye" of Mr. ALBERT SMITH flashes detectively upon them all, from the bed-chamber to the coffee-room. He has a passage about soap at Inns which will awaken a chorus of sympathetic groans from travelling readers all over the country. He gives a ground-plan of a large Four-poster in a small bed-room, which is one of the most awfully truthful and suggestive works of practical Art that we have looked on for years past—and he winds up with a perfectly bewildering model of what a wine-list ought to be, copied verbatim from the famous *carte* of "The Three Moors," at Augsburg, and giving the drinker a choice out of something like two hundred varieties of wines. We refrain from making extracts from a pamphlet which ought to be, and will be, in everybody's hands. It is enough if we announce its publication, and thank Mr. ALBERT SMITH for a small work which does great credit to his good sense, humour, and anxiety to help the effecting of a most important social reform.

The Arts.

"THE HOLLY TREE INN" AT THE ADELPHI.

A ONE act sketch, founded on the exquisite child romance with which Mr. DICKENS has illuminated the Christmas Number of "Household Words," was produced on Monday evening at the ADELPHI. The *Times* has expressed its astonishment that a piece so excellently acted, so well put on the stage, and so original in its character, should have met with so cold a reception as that which the audience awarded on Monday night, and on successive evenings as well. We take the explanation to be that, though ADELPHI audiences are not generally very delicate or subtle in their critical perceptions, they have, on this occasion, instinctively felt that the beautiful creation of Mr. DICKENS's genius belongs entirely to the domain of fairyland—to the very outskirts of humanity, fantastically and delicately tinted by a sort of Aurora of subtlest poetry and feeling. The spectators therefore resented, or but frigidly received, the attempt to render tangible what ought to be kept sacredly within the limits of fancy. We have already had occasion to remark, in connexion with another version of this remarkable tale, that the element of which stage children are most devoid is *childhood*; and, while acknowledging real cleverness on the part of Miss CRADDOCK and Miss MANNING who played the infantine lovers, we must apply the same observation to them. It is always painful to us to see those who ought to be still in possession of their childish freshness and innocence, exhibiting all the slangy knowingness and jaded training of the stage. We wish, moreover, that the instructors who have had the training of the ADELPHI children had paid a little more attention to their aspirations, and spared us the annoyance of so frequently hearing reference to "Arry." Of Mr. WEBSTER's *Boots* we may speak in high praise. The acting was natural, subdued, humorous, touching, and steeped in emotion. The piece, too, was well manufactured, with a skilful introduction of a good deal of the descriptive writing of the Christmas Number; and the scenery was well painted and effective.

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Opinion of
A. B. CRANVILLE, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S.
Author of "The Spas of Germany," "The Spas of England," "On Sudden Death," &c., &c., &c.

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In the High Court of Chancery.
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HAVE the pleasure to announce that they are now SELLING NEW SEASON'S TEAS, which are of better quality and lower price than for two years past. The BEST 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA in LONDON—recommended. VERY CHOICE SOUCHONG, per lb. 4s.—highly recommended.

The BEST MOCHA COFFEE, per lb. 1s. 6d.—highly recommended. Families and all large consumers are respectfully requested to COMPARRE the 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA with any they purchase at 3s. 10d., and their 4s. very choice SOUCHONG with TEA at any price.

The COMPANY pack TEAS in POUND PACKETS, 7lbs., 14lbs., and 28lbs. Canisters without charge; and forward £2 value, carriage paid.

For the convenience of their customers, they supply Sugars and Colonial Produce at a small per centage on import prices.

Monthly Price Circular free on application.
THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY.
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CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.

"The emporium for rich and delicious bacon is Fitch and Son's, Bishopsgate Within."—United Service Gazette.

"We know of nothing more exquisitely delicious than a rasher of Fitch's Breakfast Bacon."—Weekly Paper.

This celebrated Bacon, smoke-dried, is sold by the side, half side, and separate pieces.

THE HALF-SIDE, of 30lbs., at..... 8d. per lb.
THE MIDDLE PIECE, of 12lbs., at..... 9d.

FITCH and SON have also the honour to offer the following superior articles, extraordinary for their recharged quality.

RICH BLUE-MOULD STILTON CHEESE.
CHOICE RICH SOMERSET DITTO.
CURIOUS OLD CHESHIRE DITTO.

WILTSHIRE CHAPS AND CHINES.
PICKLED AND SMOKED OX TONGUES.
YORK HAMS, OLD AND NEW, OF DELICIOUS FLAVOUR.

WELL PICKLED BUTTER FOR WINTER STORE.
GOOD CHESHIRE CHEESE, 30 to 60lbs. each per lb. 7d.
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" SALT BUTTER, 30 to 70lbs. package 12d.
All articles are securely packed for travelling, and delivered free throughout London. Preparation, or a reference in town, is requested with orders from the country.

Post office orders to be made payable at the chief office; and these, together with cheques, may be crossed with the name of Fitch and Son's bankers, "Sir J. W. Lubbock and Co."

66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.
ESTABLISHED 1784.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.
By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent (the only patent existing for these preparations).

Strongly Recommended by the Medical Profession.
ADNAN'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS

AND BARLEY are manufactured by a process which entirely removes the acidity and unpleasant flavour, so universally found in similar preparations. They produce Gruel and Barley Water in the highest perfection, and, being manufactured perfectly pure, yield food of the most light and nourishing quality for the Infant, the Invalid, and the Aged. The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

The Patentes publish one only of the numerous testimonials they have received from eminent medical professors, relying more confidently on the intrinsic quality of the articles, of which one trial will not fail to convince the most fastidious of their purity and excellence.

(Copy.)
"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, February 19, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed) A. S. TAYLOR.

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To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

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For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing head-ache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples, and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Venders of Medicine.
Price is 1s. 4d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

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ALWAYS IN THE COFFEE ROOM AT
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(ESTABLISHED, 1763.)

Proprietor, W. HOWELL.

For the convenience of visitors to the above celebrated Old Tavern, a file is also kept of every English, Colonial, Continental, and American Newspaper.

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FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

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Surgeon-Dentists to the Royal Family, 13, Old Burlington-street, Bond-street, Patentes of the self-sustaining principle of fixing Artificial Teeth, and Inventors of the Pneumatic Palate, continue to supply their inimitable inventions which, copying nature, obviate the necessity of the unightly fastenings which, while laughing or speaking, have hitherto betrayed the wearer of Artificial Teeth. This invention renders the articulation clear and distinct, and the unpleasant whistling so long complained of, impossible.

To all public speakers, whether in the senate, in the pulpit, at the bar, or on the stage, teeth, real or artificial, are a *ma qui va*. Without them the graces of eloquence are lost, and the powers of oratory very much diminished.

Their improvements in fixing artificial teeth have been noticed with high approbation by the *Times*, *Post*, *Morning Herald*, *Morning Chronicle*, and all the other leading journals of Europe, and their numerous specimens have excited the greatest admiration of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of England and the principal cities of the continent, who constantly favour them with their distinguished recommendations, and who consider their system to be greatly superior to any in use by other members of the profession, as by it the greatest possible firmness and security in the mouth is attained, and the patient enabled to properly perform the important operation of mastication, which is most essential to health, and without which the stomach cannot duly fulfil its functions.

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They have deservedly obtained the highest patronage; very many of the Nobility, the Clergy, and the Public generally use them under the recommendation of some of the most eminent of the Faculty.

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Half-pints, 1s. 6d.; pints, 2s. 6d.; quarts, 4s. 6d.; five-pint bottles, 10s. 6d.; imperial measure.

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BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.
This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind; for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.
Price is 1s. 4d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

GASELIERS in GLASS and METAL.—The increased and increasing use of gas in private houses has induced WILLIAM S. BURTON to collect from the various manufacturers in Metal and Glass all that is new and choice in Brackets, Pendants, and Chandeliers, adapted to all cases, passages, and dwelling-rooms, as well as to have some designed expressly for him; these are ON SHOW over his SIXTEEN LARGE ROOMS, and present, for novelty, variety, and purity of taste, an unequalled assortment. They are marked in plain figures, at prices proportionate with those which have tended to make his Ironmongery Establishment the largest and most remarkable in the Kingdom—viz., from 12s. 6d. (two lights) to £16. 16s.

LAMPES à MODÉRATEUR. From 6s. to £6 6s.—The demand for these lamps having become general, WILLIAM S. BURTON has collected from the different makers here and in France a variety that defies competition. As many imported from France were found to be inferior in the work, William S. Burton sent expressly to Paris to select only from the best makers, and he can now guarantee each lamp he sells as perfect in all its parts.

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Bronze lamps, full size	10 0	20 0
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Porcelain ditto, many elegantly painted	36 0	125 0

Pure Colza Oil, 5s. 6d. per gallon.
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ARE YOU ABOUT TO FURNISH?
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ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c., for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 15s. Postage, 6d.

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LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, Fleet- street, London, February 7th, 1856.—NOTICE is hereby given that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the PROPRIETORS of the LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY will be held at the Society's Office, Fleet-street, London, on Friday, the 22nd day of February instant, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, for the purpose of confirming (if thought fit) resolutions passed at the General Meeting of Proprietors held on Saturday, the 2nd day of February instant, authorising the alteration of various clauses in the Society's Deed of Settlement.

By order of the Directors,
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

UNITED MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 4, Charing-cross, London.
Policies indisputable.
No charge for Policy Stamps.
Whole profits divided annually.
Assurances on the strictly mutual principle.
Invalid lives assured at equitable rates.
THOMAS FRITCHARD, Resident Director.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
The books of the Society close on 1st March, and Proposals lodged at the head office, or at any of the agencies, on or before that date, will secure the advantage of the present year's entry, and of One Year's Additional Bonus over later Proposals.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.
THE WHOLE PROFITS DIVIDED AMONGST THE ASSURED.

THE SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

The fund accumulated from the contributions of Members exceeds NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.
The annual revenue exceeds ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND POUNDS.
The amount of existing Assurances exceeds FOUR MILLIONS and a QUARTER STERLING.
The amount paid to the Representatives of Deceased Members is upwards of SIX HUNDRED and FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS, of which SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND POUNDS are bonus additions.

THE NEXT DIVISION OF PROFITS takes place at the 1st of MARCH, 1856, and Policies effected before that date receive one year's additional Bonus over those effected after that date.

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118, PALL-MALL, LONDON.
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Deputy-Chairman—HENRY POWNALL, Esq., Ludbrook-square, Nottingham.

Secretary—W. C. URQUHART, Esq.
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No charge for medical fees or stamps.
Loans granted for long or short periods, payable by monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly instalments.
Defective Titles, Reversions, &c., assured and guaranteed.

A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK.
IN CASE OF INJURY BY
ACCIDENT OF ANY DESCRIPTION
or the sum of

£1,000 IN CASE OF DEATH,
may be secured by an Annual Payment of £3 for a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.
A weekly Allowance of Fifteen Shillings for Injury, or £100 in case of Death secured by a payment of Ten Shillings.

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.
Forms of Proposal, Prospectuses, &c. may be had of the Agents—of the Clerks at all the principal Railway Stations—and at the Head Office, London, where also

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ALONE may be insured against by the Journey or by the year as heretofore.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.
Railway Passengers Insurance Company,
Empowered by a Special Act of Parliament,
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VICE-CHAIRMAN—Sir Samuel Hancock, Knight.
This Society has been established as the UNION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, so as to extend to all classes of the community the advantages of Provident Societies, without their defects. The Rates and Principles are based on the most Recent Experience of the Laws of Mortality and Sickness, and have been certified by the eminent Authority, ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A. (Cantab.), F.R.S.

GROUPED SHARES, amounting to £50 or £120, are issued by this Society, realisable by Monthly Instalments of 10s., Interest being credited at 5 per cent. from the date of each monthly subscription.

PERSONS THINKING OF ASSURING SHOULD DO SO AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW YEAR.
N.B.—The Share List will be closed early; therefore immediate application is desirable.

JWM. CURTIS OTTER,
General Manager and Secretary.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Exhibitor's Department.—The Directors, having made arrangements with many of the principal exhibitors in the Paris Exhibition for the transference of their goods to Sydenham, are desirous of making similar arrangements with the manufacturers of the United Kingdom generally. They are, therefore, prepared to grant SPACE for the EXHIBITION of SPECIMENS of MANUFACTURE, at a nominal rent, for one year, from the 1st of May next.

Every facility will be given for taking orders and making sales from samples, but no delivery of goods will be permitted in this department of the Palace.

Manufacturers and others at present exhibiting in the non-selling division are informed that, on the expiration of their present tenancy, they will be allowed to occupy space at a nominal rent until the 30th of April, 1857. Parties wishing to avail themselves of the above offer are requested to apply to the Superintendent of the Exhibitor's Department, at the Crystal Palace, for forms of application, which must be returned on or before the 1st of March next.

The Directors reserve to themselves a right of selection in respect of goods for which space may be applied for.
By order, G. GROVE, Secretary.
Crystal Palace, February 2, 1856.

PRACTICAL MILITARY INSTITUTION.
For Gentlemen destined for the Military Profession.
Under the Patronage of

Gen. Sir J. F. Fitzgerald,	Colonel J. H. Pringle,
K.C.B., M.P.	Colonel the Hon. J. Lindsay,
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R.H.	Colonel Brook Taylor,
Major-Gen. G. Morton Eden,	Lieut. - Colonel J. Mac-
Major-Gen. R. Hawkes,	naghten Hogg,
Colonel the Hon. E. B. Wil-	Rev. Charles Wrench, D.C.L.
braham,	Rev. W. G. Hawtayne, M.A.
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Director of Studies, Captain Lendy, late of the French Staff, Graduate in Classics, and in Mathematical Honours, &c.

This INSTITUTION will definitely OPEN on February the 12th, at Sunbury, Middlesex.

The extensive grounds and the situation of the Establishment are well adapted to the operations which are to be carried out.

The Staff consists of Four Resident Masters and Twelve Professors.

Terms of admission, prospectus, &c., forwarded upon application to Captain LENDY, 6, Forchester-terrace, Baywater; and after the 12th inst. to the Secretary of the Institution, Sunbury, Middlesex.

C. BAKER, Secretary.

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MR. ARRIVABENE, D.L.L., from the University of Padua, who has been established in London for three years, gives private lessons in Italian and French at his own house, or the houses of his pupils. He also attends Schools both in town and country. Mr. ARRIVABENE teaches on a plan thoroughly practical, and the most mediocre mind cannot fail to thoroughly comprehend his lessons.

Apply by letter to Mr. ARRIVABENE, No. 4, St. Michael's-place, Brompton.

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.—Wanted, a Master for a SECULAR DAY SCHOOL, salary £75 a year, with a commission on each pupil over Sixty, and other advantages. For further particulars apply to the Secretary, Literary and Scientific Institution, John street, Fitzroy-square. Applications, with testimonials, to be sent in on or before Wednesday, February 27th instant.

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Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection.

Business with all the Australian Colonies conducted through the Bank's Agents.

Apply at the Company's Office, 54, Old Broad-street, London.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

London, February 1, 1856.

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Prospectuses, terms of agency, proposals, &c., can be had on application.

J. G. HUGHES, Secretary.

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NOTICE.—The Half-yearly Dividend at six per cent. per annum, and Interest on Deposits at five per cent., both free of Income-tax, are now in course of payment at the Head Offices, and through the Company's Agents in the Provinces. 15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi. R. HODSON, Sec.

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Just published, price 2s., post free, 2s. 6d.,

AN ESSAY ON SPERMATORRHEA; its Nature and Treatment, with an exposition of the Frauds that are practised by persons who advertise the speedy, safe, and effectual cure of Nervous Derangement.

By A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, London.

London: W. Kess and Co., 61 and 62, Paternoster-row.

NEW BURLINGTON-STREET, February 9, 1856.

MR. BENTLEY'S

LIST OF NEW WORKS

PUBLISHED THIS DAY.

I.

The MONCTONS. A Novel. By Mrs. MOODIE, Author of "Roughing it in the Bush." 2 Vols.

II.

SERMONS in STONES, or SCRIP-TURE CONFIRMED by GEOLOGY. By D. M. AUSLAND. Small 8vo. 3s.

III.

SEBASTOPOL—OUR TENT in the CRIMEA and WANDERINGS INSIDE SEBASTOPOL. By TWO BROTHERS. Post 8vo., with Map. 10s. 6d.

"The most interesting parts relate to the general management of the army, the great assault on the 8th September, and the appearance inside Sebastopol, for the describer was in the town early on the 9th. There is freshness in the observation and novelty in the minutiae."—*Spectator*.

IV.

LAMARTINE'S MEMOIRS of CELEBRATED CHARACTERS. Third and concluding Volume. 8vo. 14s.

"The concluding volume of this series opens with a dramatic portrayal of William Tell, which is followed by a most elaborate and magnificently wrought picture of Madame de Sevigne, and a full-length portrait of Bossuet, which may be said to be the most masterly of the many which constitute a remarkable series."—*Athenaeum*.

V.

HISTORY of CHRISTIAN CHURCHES and SECTS, from the Earliest Ages of Christianity. By the Rev. J. B. MARSDEN, A.M., Author of "The Early and Later Puritans." 2 Vols. 8vo. 28s.

"His information is well digested, his judgment sound and impartial, his manner of treatment not only clear, but with a sustained vividness. His philosophic impartiality should not be passed without notice, and his arrangement, which is well adapted for conveying complete and full information."—*Spectator*.

The issue of this Work in Parts will be discontinued at the end of March, when it will only be sold in 2 Vols. 8vo.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON'S NEW HISTORY.

This day is published, price 15s., the Fifth Volume of **THE HISTORY of EUROPE from the FALL of NAPOLEON to the ACCESSION of LOUIS NAPOLEON.** In demy octavo, uniform with the Library Edition of the "History of Europe from 1792 to the Battle of Waterloo," by the same Author.

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A REVELATION.

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